

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Of the options provided
by Interior, which status
do you support for
long-term alien workers
in the CNMI?

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INSIDE



Bomb Suspect

Police are focusing on finding a man videotaped near a car bomb in Times Square.

NATION...Page 14



'We Did It'

The Pakistani Taliban has claimed responsibility for the bomb attack in Times Square.

ASIA...Page 15



Resurrection

Mickey Rourke was jailed on a recent trip to Russia as part of his Iron Man research.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20



Sources: Continental, United to combine

United and Continental Airlines plan to announce today that they're joining to form the world's largest airline. The combined United and Continental will have flights reaching from Shanghai to South America.

The \$3 billion stock swap gained approval from both airlines' boards Sunday, people with knowledge of the deal said.

Combining Continental and United would leave the U.S. with three big international airlines—the new United, Delta, and American Airlines. United is the nation's third-largest carrier by traffic. Continental Airlines Inc., in Houston, is the country's fourth biggest.

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Fitia! wants unified NMI voice on Interior report

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

- » **Kilili says any immigration bill faces uphill battle**
- » **US House Subcommittee sets May 18 hearing**
- » **Nonresidents work on own strategy**

Gov. Benigno R. Fitia! said yesterday it is "deeply disappointed" by the U.S. Department of the Interior's lack of proper consultation and its submission of a report to the U.S. Congress on the status of alien workers six hours before local leaders had a chance to see the report's contents for the first time.

See FITIAL on Page 4



AZ immigration law subjects Chamorros to racial profiling

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Some Chamorros residing in Arizona are inadvertently being subjected to racial profiling after its government implemented a new law that seeks to curb illegal immigrants in the state.

See CHAMORROS on Page 4

OPM: CNMI wage law needs to be revisited

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting Personnel Management Director Isidro Seman said yesterday that the 19-year-old CNMI compensation law signed in 1991 needs to be revisited amid calls for necessary salary adjustments of government

See OPM on Page 4

PAST AND PRESENT ATTORNEYS GENERAL

Seven of the former attorneys general of the CNMI join current Attorney General Edward Buckingham, third from left, in judging the contestants at the 26th Annual Attorney General's Cup. From left, Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Herbert Soll, Federal Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown, Buckingham, Atty. Matthew Gregory, CNMI Bar Association president Maya Kara, Atty. Robert Torres, Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona Manglona, and Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Teen, juvenile stage armed robbery at CK restaurant. PAGE 2
8 firms want to be Fund's investment consultant. PAGE 3



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Local

2 stage armed robbery at CK restaurant

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A teenager and a male juvenile have been arrested for allegedly robbing a restaurant in Chalan Kanoa and assaulting its owner around Saturday midnight—a feat that netted them a measly \$25.

The suspect, Eric Aguon, 18, face charges of armed robbery, disturbing the peace, theft, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

His juvenile accomplice was booked for armed robbery, minor consuming alcohol, and curfew violation.

The juvenile's mother, Choice A. Ray, was also taken in for allegedly trying to prevent police officers from arresting her son.

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman imposed yesterday a \$25,000 cash bail for Aguon's temporary liberty.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David said

yesterday that, DPS received a 911 call on Saturday at 12:55am about a robbery at the Chang Won Restaurant.

David said police officers responded to the scene and learned that two male individuals entered the restaurant, demanded money, and assaulted the female owner with a 2X2 lumber and a large rock.

Fearing for her life, the businesswoman gave one of the suspects money, then ran to the back room for assistance.

The suspects fled on foot.

Officers immediately reviewed the surveillance camera, which led to the identification of

Aguon and the juvenile.

David said police found the suspects in Chalan Kanoa village at 3:10am and arrested them, along with the juvenile's mother.

Detective Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that Aguon and the juvenile forced their way into the Chang Won Restaurant despite Kyung Aea Jung's efforts to close the

door on them. Upon entering the restaurant, the juvenile allegedly threatened to hit Jung with the lumber. Aguon also threatened Jung with the rock, shouting at her to get down.



Aguon

Eucon holds commencement rites for five new graduates



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Graduates of this year's Eucon International College 4th Commencement Exercises pose with Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, center front row, and faculty members and officials during Saturday's ceremony at the school auditorium.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Five students were awarded college diplomas during Eucon International College's fourth commencement exercises held Saturday in the school's auditorium.

The new graduates—Jing “Jasmine” Chen, Hanna Hyesha De Leon, Mark Christopher Miral, Christa Myriam Wei,

and Yue Long “Angela” Yu—earned their bachelor degrees in Secondary Education.

To date, a total of 13 have already graduated from Eucon's Secondary Education program.

This year's academic award went to Wei, who received the highest grade point average in the batch. Wei has been admitted to the Pensacola Christian College for her Master of Science in Educational Administra-

tion this summer.

The Leadership Award was bestowed on Mark Christopher Miral, who had been the student body president for two consecutive years. *Saipan Tribune* learned that Miral is preparing for his entry in the U.S. Marines.

Meantime, other graduates plan to further their education and careers. Chen is planning to study music; De Leon plans to take another bachelor's degree or pursue a master's degree; and Yu is also thinking of taking up a master's degree next year.

This year's commencement exercise was keyed by Michael Ada, the government's Department of Commerce secretary.

Graduates were also greeted by Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and members of the school faculty and staff.

According to Eucon president and founder Dr. Christian Wei, the institution is committed to its mission of providing quality learning to students and unveiled plan to offer graduate degrees in the near future.

He also disclosed plans to change the institution's name to Eucon University, which will offer masters in education and the Bible.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

How are you celebrating May Tourism Month?

Here's what some of you had to say...



I like Taste of the Marianas, especially the food here, and especially D'Elegance!

Roka Hum, at back, with friends at Taste of the Marianas

We greet tourists when we see them, wave and say, “Welcome to Saipan.” I look forward to Taste of the Marianas also—the entertainment and the food booths. We also need to practice courtesy when we see tourists at crosswalks and let them cross.



Monie Manalo



I'm going to Managaha and swim with the tourists.

Felix Castro



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

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8 firms want to be Fund's investment consultant

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eight companies—all from off-island—responded to the NMI Retirement Fund's ad for a new investment consultant.

The selection process is now ongoing, according to Fund deputy administrator Richard Villagomez yesterday, and the top four applicants will undergo a board interview.

Merrill Lynch, the Fund's current investment consultant,

is one of the eight applicants, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Villagomez said the agency is still reviewing the proposals and would require more information to narrow the field for the board interview.

"What we usually do is we pick the top 3 or 4 applicants and schedule them for interview. From there, the board of trustees will make the final selection," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding the management hopes to make the final decision in two months.

"It would take some time... but we're aiming for two months [on this]," he said.

Merrill Lynch's current contract with the Fund has no expiration date but allows a review every two years. This year is the last of the two-year term.

The Fund earlier disclosed that decision to look for a new investment consultant was a result of the higher fee being asked by Merrill Lynch. The company wants to increase its service fee from 3.5 basis points

to 5 basis points—or 5 percent of every 1 percent—of the Fund's total investment. This is about \$180,000 yearly.

At present, Merrill Lynch is making about \$150,000 per year for its services.

The firm was last hired in 2008 when the Fund's investment was around \$300 million. In the last two years, the company collected \$300,000 for its services. It got the highest service payment probably in 2007 when the Fund's investments

were at \$400 million.

There is a pending case in court against Merrill Lynch, which accuses it of overcharging the Fund and providing bad investment advice that resulted in millions of losses.

During a three-day money managers' meeting on island early this year, Merrill Lynch reported positive investment earnings in the 22 years of the

program—from the initial \$18.5 million in March 1987 to a little over \$335 million as of December 2009.

Out of the 22-year period of the investment fund, Merrill Lynch said that there were only five years during which the Fund posted a loss in its investment earnings, which means that 16 of the 22 years all posted positive investment earnings.

Woman hurt after jumping from car Allegedly to escape beating of ex-convict boyfriend

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A woman sustained several injuries when she jumped from a traveling car in an attempt to escape being beaten by her ex-convict boyfriend.

The victim had abrasions and bruises on the right side of her face, hands, and abdomen. She also sustained a fractured collarbone, caused by the car that ran over her, according to police.

The suspect, Mario Muña Reyes, 40, was arrested Saturday afternoon in As Lito for aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Superior Court associate

judge David Wiseman imposed a \$25,000 cash bail for Reyes' temporary release. Preliminary hearing was set for May 11 at 1:30pm.

A detective stated in his report that, on April 29 at 8:30pm, hospital staff alerted the Department of Public Safety about a victim of domestic violence who was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The detective said that, according to the victim, she and her boyfriend, Reyes, were heading to San Vicente on the night of April 29 as he wanted to purchase "ice" from someone.

Reyes pulled over at a store in San Vicente and asked if he could use her cell phone. While browsing her cell phone, Reyes

asked her about the numbers on her phone.

The victim said she had no knowledge about the numbers as it was Reyes who was using the phone. Reyes allegedly got angry and hit her on the head and grabbed her face with his hand.

Reyes then recklessly accelerated the car he was driving, causing the vehicle to spin out of control. Fearing for her life, the victim jumped out of the car, but Reyes grabbed her shirt, causing her to go under the car while it was moving.

Reyes then stopped the vehicle, got down, picked her up, put her on the passenger side, and started to drive again.

The victim asked Reyes to

take her to the hospital, but her refused and instead drove her to his house.

When they got there, the victim pleaded with Reyes' mother to bring her to CHC. Reyes told his mother not to interfere and said that he will bring her there.

The detective said it was not the first time Reyes beat up the victim. Reyes would allegedly beat her up on the beach and burn parts of her body with lighted cigarettes.

The victim's mother told police that there were incidents before when Reyes was jailed for beating up her daughter.

Reyes allegedly has an illegal rifle at his house.

According to court records, Reyes had previous cases of theft, assault with dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and criminal felony.

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OPM

From Page 1

employees.

"The compensation plan has not been updated for a long time. I know it's about time to update it. But the usual culprit here is money. I need to recruit experts in this area to do it. ... This will also require everybody's input, not only of the Office of the Personnel Management," Seman told senators.

Public Law 7-31 or the Commonwealth Compensation Adjustment and Salary Act of 1991 was signed on June 19, 1991, implementing across-the-board salary adjustments for government workers.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations chaired by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) held a public hearing yesterday morning on Seman's appointment as OPM director.

Seman told senators that by revisiting the compensation law, they will be able to address disparities in pay scale among police officers on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

The Senate EAGI Committee also held a public hearing yesterday afternoon on the appointment of Ignacio Demapan as resident executive director of the Office of Indigenous Affairs.

All the over 10 individuals who testified at the two public hearings urged the Senate committee to recommend the confirmation of Seman and Demapan.

400 notices

Seman told senators that almost 400 notices of work hour cuts went out to excepted service or contract employees in the Executive Branch.

The work hour cuts will go into effect as early as next week, in line with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's implementation of austerity measures after revising the projected revenue from \$150 million to \$137 million.

While the projected revenue is \$137 million for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010, government spending is expected to reach \$170 million, thus the need for austerity measures.

Besides Cruz, the other Senate EAGI Committee members—Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota)—took turns asking Seman and Demapan.

House Vice Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) told senators that the CNMI needs a "competent" OPM director like Seman.

"He's not only competent but also possesses...the virtue of determination. ... He has demonstrated that he could lead, and he's able to work with his people," Ogumoro said.

Former House Speakers Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero and Oscar Rasa strongly urged Seman's confirmation. Others who testified in support of Seman were OPM's Joseph Pangelinan and Malua T. Peter.

Indigenous concerns

Except for attorney Joseph N. Camacho, all others who testified in support of Demapan spoke in the vernacular.

Attorney General Edward Buckingham, who submitted a written testimony, said that Demapan is qualified to serve in the position. He said Demapan has deep roots in the community and culture, is observant and patient, and recognizes when issues should be left alone and when to engage in debate.

"With the recent report filed with the United States Congress by the Department of the Interior, the issue of indigenous concern is of high importance to the Commonwealth. Mr. Demapan will be an asset to represent the interests of the local population in these matters. I believe he warrants your trust and favorable consideration," Buckingham told the committee.

Demapan first became resident executive for indigenous affairs from 1998 to 2002. Fitial appointed him to the same post early this year.

"I am a firm believer that we must continue to support and defend our indigenous rights. As indigenous, we hold birthrights and entitlements to the future of our islands and our children. Our culture and traditions have taught us the immense values of respect, honor and family. Through these aspects, we can continue to rise as a people in the face of any adversity and prevail," Demapan told senators.

CHAMORROS

From Page 1

One of them was Segundo Castro, president and founder of the Saipan Tinian Student Association in Arizona.

In an interview over the phone yesterday, Castro confirmed the incident on April 28 when he and some companions went to pick up a money wire transfer.

"We were asked by the clerk to show some documents that will prove that we are legally staying in Arizona," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, adding that they were hesitant to comply because they were not fully aware of the new law.

Castro said they were informed that because of their skin color, authorities have to make sure that they were not Hispanic "illegals."

Castro immediately wrote NMI Delegate to the U.S. Congress Gregorio Kilili Sablan informing him of the incident and inquiring about the new Arizona legislation.

His letter states in part: "We are writing this letter to request for your assistance with our predicament in the State of Arizona. On April 28, 2010, we were on our way to California from Texas. We were at the WalMart in Flagstaff to pick up a

money wire transfer at MoneyGram from one of our members. We were told that due to the new law in Arizona, we had to show proof that we were United States citizens, provide our occupation, and our Social Security."

He added that, according to the clerk, the border is just nearby and anyone who looks Hispanic has to show proof that they are legally staying in Arizona in accordance with state law.

"We were asked to provide extra information due to the color of our skin and it is required by the state law of Arizona," he said.

Since many of their members from the CNMI are planning to transfer to colleges and universities in Phoenix for their associate, bachelor, or master's degree, they need the congressman's assistance to clear the matter.

Castro asked Sablan if the new law in Arizona will jeopardize their way of life in the state.

Castro told *Saipan Tribune* that Sablan's legal adviser told him to formally file the incident at the congressman's office for reference.

The same letter was also sent to Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz.

"We're waiting for some information from the congressman... so our members can have a better understanding of this new law," Castro said.

FITIAL

From Page 1

The Fitial administration is bent on opposing portions of the report, as well as the recommendation by the Interior of granting long-term status to nonresidents who have legally resided in the CNMI for at least five years.

"It almost appears as if there were ulterior motives behind the advanced submission of the Interior's recommendations," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Alien worker groups led by the United Workers Movement-NMI are now working on a strategy of their own to ensure that the U.S. Congress will act swiftly on Interior's recommendations, including granting U.S. citizenship or permanent residency leading to citizenship.

Ronnie Doca, board chairman of the UWM-NMI, invited community members to the strategy session on Saturday at the American Memorial Park, from 2pm to 4pm.

Interior gave five examples of how a long-term status can be granted, including conferring U.S. citizenship by an act of Congress and granting permanent residency leading to U.S. citizenship.

Fitial will meet as early as today with lawmakers, mayors and at least four Cabinet members to come up with a unified CNMI government response to the Interior report and recommendation.

"This meeting is aimed at safeguarding the interests and addressing the potential impact that such recommendations will have on the Commonwealth and the local community. It is the intent of the administration to have the Commonwealth leaders come together in an effort to formulate a unified response and position to the recommendations submitted by DOI," Demapan said.

Uphill battle in Congress

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sa-

blan (D-MP) recognized the anxiety caused by the Interior report. Among other things, he said these are just recommendations to Congress.

Sablan said as the CNMI representative to the U.S. Congress, he is not going to let immigration legislation go through Congress until everyone has a chance to give their opinion.

"And I am not going to let any immigration legislation go through Congress unless I think it represents the will of the majority," he said.

Secondly, Sablan said "the political reality is that any immigration legislation faces an uphill battle in Congress."

"Whether you like the recommendations or you don't like them — as President Obama said on Friday—Congress lacks 'the appetite' for immigration legislation this year," said Sablan, responding to *Saipan Tribune* questions.

He, however, said that Congress has to have a "very serious and level-headed discussion about the future of foreign workers in the Marianas."

"We need a labor force for our economy. We need consumers in our economy. Can we really afford to send all 20,000 foreign workers home?" he asked.

Sablan also cited Fitial's statements to the media in December stating that he won't oppose the federal government's granting of "green cards" to alien workers should the federal government decides to do so.

"Well, as you know the governor said months ago that he is not opposed to green cards. And now the Secretary of the Interior is agreeing with the governor on that," he added.

'Weaknesses'

Sablan said the Interior report has some "serious weaknesses."

"In many ways its recommendations are just a list of options. So that's not very helpful. Then there is the problem of forecasting how many workers our

economy will need in the coming years. Interior interviewed 10 businesses and concluded we would need 15 percent more workers than we have now. That's a pretty weak analysis. Giving all foreign workers green cards—which the governor says is okay—is one end of the spectrum. The other end is to do nothing and let foreign workers be zeroed out," he said.

The delegate said most people would probably like to see something between those two extreme positions.

"This is why we have a transition period: to allow time for all of these questions to be answered. But we do have to start a serious discussion. The situation calls for some real leadership despite that the issue is messy, difficult, and requires compromise," he said.

Washington, DC hearing

Demapan said Fitial also "hinted" that he may be attending a hearing in Washington, D.C. on May 18 to be conducted by the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife chaired by Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo.

Bordallo's subcommittee will hold an oversight hearing on the implementation of the federalization law in the CNMI.

Fitial is likely to use the occasion to present the CNMI government's unified position on the Interior report and recommendation.

Bordallo invited CNMI officials to attend the hearing or submit testimony.

Sablan said he will also try to hold a field hearing in the CNMI—"probably in early 2011 so people have more opportunity to express their feelings."

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), who was among those invited to the Washington, D.C. hearing, said he would rather submit a testimony which will incorporate the position statement on the Interior report that the CNMI Senate is expected to come up

with by next week.

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said Fitial can submit his own comments to Congress, but his plan of coming up with a unified CNMI government position after meeting with other top officials will be better.

But Tenorio said Interior only did what it was required to do—to submit a report on the status of alien workers by a set deadline.

U.S. Public Law 110-220 or the federalization law gives the Interior until May 10, 2010, to submit the report. It contains data on the alien population in the CNMI, as well as recommendations for long-term status for the alien population.

Interior recommends that thousands of alien workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for a minimum of five years be allowed to apply for long-term status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Tenorio, just like other lawmakers, said he has yet to decide whether to support the Interior recommendations on the status of aliens in the CNMI.

Manglona, for his part, commended the governor for trying to reach out to other leaders to come up with a unified position on the Interior report and recommendation.

He said he also asked all the other senators to carefully read the Interior report so that the Senate can also come up with a position paper as early as next week.

"We may also introduce a resolution on our position," said Manglona.

House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said the group will meet today to discuss, among other things, the Interior report.

'Railroaded'

Demapan said the Fitial administration "is deeply disappointed by the lack of consultation and the actions of DOI in submitting the recommendations to Congress six hours before local leaders

had a chance to see its contents for the first time."

Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta said that Interior submitted the report to Congress toward the close of business hours on Thursday in Washington, D.C. or about 8am on Saipan on Friday.

At 2pm last Friday, Babauta met with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and other CNMI officials to personally present copies of the Interior report.

Babauta said Interior had consulted with CNMI officials. He also said the CNMI can submit comments to the Congress.

Demapan said the CNMI was not afforded the opportunity to review a draft report nor offer alternative recommendations that would reflect the concerns of the government and the local community.

"The administration finds it appalling that the process was pretty much railroaded. Moreover, the administration has called into question the supporting data used by DOI to issue such recommendations. It is quite disappointing that the feedback of 10 business entities was used as the basis that would determine the economic future of the CNMI in terms of addressing the fate of alien workers in the Northern Marianas," he said.

He said in view of Interior's action, Fitial will call for a leadership meeting to include elected leaders such as members of the Legislature and the mayors.

Fitial will also include in the meeting the heads of the Department of Labor, Department of Commerce, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and Office of the Attorney General.

"The governor and lieutenant governor want to ensure that through a meeting of the minds with our islands' leaders, a comprehensive consensus will be attained in charting how best we can make the concerns of our islands heard in halls of the U.S. Congress," Demapan said.

NMC faces \$500K unfunded liability for utilities

» **'Anything beyond \$5.6M budget will jeopardize operation'**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College faces over \$500,000 in un-

funded liability this fiscal year, representing utility expenses through September 2010.

Budget analyst Skep Palacios reported to the Board of Regents on Friday that the college's power consumption will amount to \$507,402—an amount that has yet to find a funding source to date. He said this projected unfunded liability covers util-

ity billings from March 2010 through the end of fiscal year in September 2010.

He said that NMC will be billed an estimated total of \$414,900 in the seven-month period, on top of the estimated balance NMC will incur after it makes all scheduled utility payments on its current accumulative obligation to CUC.

NMC's projected monthly utility consumption is \$69,150.

Palacios disclosed that as of February 2010, NMC had an unpaid obligation of \$440,372 in utility consumption. Of this amount, NMC expects to pay a total of \$304,880 from the following sources: \$91,719 from the 2010 Compact impact funds; \$90,691 from the current budget allocation; and \$122,470 from

lapsed "all others" funds in FY 2009. This will leave NMC with arrears amounting to \$135,492.

Palacios said this outstanding balance will be added to the next seven months' billing, totaling \$414,900. Total projected obligation to CUC will therefore reach \$550,392 for FY 2010.

Palacios said that NMC only has \$42,990 in available local appropriation that could be used to pay for this liability.

"Even if we make all the payment schedules this fiscal year, NMC remains short of funds...by over half a million dollars. That's something we need to worry about," Palacios told the board.

Tight situation

NMC chief financial and ad-

ministrative officer Henry Hofschneider told the board Friday that the college also faces a very tight situation next fiscal year due to the lower budget allocated by the central government.

NMC submitted a budget proposal of \$9.9 million for next fiscal year, including a budget for the long-delayed apprenticeship program. Of the proposed amount, roughly \$5.7 million is for personnel and "all other" expenditures, while \$1.2 million will fund the college's vocational education program.

However, the governor asked the Legislature for just \$4.7 million for NMC, with \$3.8 million for personnel and operation and \$913,965 for the

vocational education program.

At present, the college is operating on a \$4.2 million budget due to the 7.25 percent across-the-board cut required by the administration.

NMC has two funding sources. For operational expenditures, it uses the tuition it generates from students. It projects to collect \$3.1 million in FY 2011. The local appropriation, meantime, covers the salary of personnel and other expenditures of the college such as utilities.

During Friday's regular meeting, Board of Regents vice chair Paz Younis said a budget below \$5.6 million for NMC will jeopardize the college's operation.

Board chair Janet Han King asked all regents to participate in the budget hearings at the Legislature to clear "misconceptions and confusions" about NMC's budget.

Annual leave accrual reinstated due to abuse by gubernatorial appointees

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reinstated the accrual of annual leave at the rate of eight hours per pay period, saying that the termination of the practice four years ago "has resulted in much abuse of leave" among gubernatorial appointees.

Fitial, in an April 26 memorandum to all gubernatorial appointees, said the reinstatement of all annual leave accrual at the rate of eight hours per pay period is effective Jan. 11, 2010.

"I expect leave application requests, whether it be for personal or medical reasons, be submitted on a timely manner

for approval prior to taking such leave," Fitial said in his one-page memo.

On May 8, 2006, Fitial issued Directive 254, to cease accrual of annual leave for appointees during their period of appointment.

As stated in the governor's directive, a salaried employee as established by statute is on-duty 24 hours a day for the full period of his appointment.

"This has resulted in much abuse of leave and appointees expecting full compensation for incomplete work hours. This is poor management practice. I expect no more than full diligence and dedication from each of you," he said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

REPROGRAMMING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Program Year	Activity No.	Activity Type	Activity Name	Activity Status	Amount from program	Reprogram to
2007	389	Public Facilities	Rehabilitation of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School	New	\$800,000	
2007	390	Public Facilities	Northern Marianas Islands Football Association Soccer Facility	New		\$800,000
Total					\$800,000	\$800,000

Note: The Rehabilitation of the Gregorio T. Camacho (GTC) Elementary School has been fully funded and completed using Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Funds. For details of the completed project, please contact Ms. Vicky Villagomez, CIP Office, at 664-2406.

The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., May 7, 2010, at the main office in Garapan, Post Office Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be relayed to Jeannie P. Mafnas at telephone number (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689, or 9447. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations to submit comments may also contact Jeannie P. Mafnas at the telephone numbers above for assistance.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor, CNMI

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OPA chief investigator pleads not guilty

» Defendant still OPA's chief investigator despite charges

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of Public Auditor's chief investigator who was arrested on April 23 for allegedly purchasing two boxes of bullets

illegally pleaded not guilty at his arraignment yesterday.

Juan M. Santos pleaded not guilty to charges of manufacture, sale or possession of firearms and dangerous devices; and failure to show an identification card prerequisite to purchase, possession and use.

The 43-year-old Santos is out on bail and sources said that OPA has yet to remove Santos despite the charges.

Attorney Bruce Berline, who is counsel for Santos, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that his client is still working for OPA. "He's still the chief investigator at the OPA," Berline said.

The lawyer said there will be a bail modification hearing on Wednesday at 9am.



Santos

"We're moving for modification of bail conditions. It's just that the court requires us to surrender the passport and he [Santos] needs the passport," Berline said, adding that he will have more to say about the case after the bail modification hearing.

Members of the Department of Public Safety's Joint Drug

Enforcement Task Force and Criminal Investigation Bureau served the arrest warrant on Santos at the OPA office on Capital Hill on April 23.

Santos is a former police officer.

Detective Roque Camacho stated in his report that on Nov. 13, 2009, a former employee at the DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicles/Office of Records and Firearms, reviewed a list of sale of ammunition submitted by Joeten Enterprises.

Camacho said the employee came across the name of Santos, who, according to the list,

purchased on Oct. 26, 2009 two boxes of .22 caliber long rifle ammunition using a badge number instead of a firearms identification card.

Upon reviewing records at the Office of Firearms and Records, another employee discovered that Santos never possessed any firearms identification card, nor does he ever possess any permit to purchase any firearms or ammunition.

Santos resigned from DPS on May 10, 2008, and went to work as an investigator under the Office of the Attorney General.

Another former employee of closed garment manufacturer files lawsuit

A former employee of the defunct garment manufacturer Grace International Inc. has sued the company to collect damages.

Mei Li, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, asked the Superior Court to order Grace International to pay her attorney's fees and court costs.

Horey stated in the complaint that, on Aug. 15, 2003, Li filed a complaint with the Department of Labor against Grace International for unpaid wages and medical expenses.

Horey said that, on May 22, 2007, the Labor Hearing Office issued an administrative order finding Grace International liable to pay Li \$1,598 in unpaid wages, \$1,598 in liquidated damages, and \$2,332 in medi-

cal expenses, for a total award of \$5,528.

The lawyer said that on Jan. 8, 2010, the Labor Administrative Hearing Office issued a further administrative order finding Grace International liable to pay Li \$2,983.10 in attorney's fees.

Horey said Grace International has not paid Li any of the amounts.

Horey said that, as a consequence of his collection efforts, Li secured payment from Oceania Insurance Corp. of \$1,586 for unpaid wages, and \$2,332 for medical expenses, for a total of \$3,918.

"The remaining balance of the damages awarded in the Labor order (\$1,610) remains unpaid, either by Grace or by

Oceania," he said.

As a consequence of her collection efforts, Li incurred attorney's fees and costs in excess of the amount collected, Horey said.

Horey also represents another ex-Grace International employee in her lawsuit against Grace in federal court.

The lawsuit led the federal court on Jan. 11, 2010 to order the sale of the former Grace factory located in Susupe to Huang Shun Corp. in satisfaction of a judgment for the worker.

Some of the remaining funds are reportedly currently in the trust account of the Law Office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. Horey belongs to the same law office. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

John Gonzales LIVE schedule

LIVE 7pm-8pm (May 5); Replay 7pm-8pm (May 9 and May 10)

■ Topic: Children's Mental Health Awareness

Guests: Greg Borja, NMPA-SI; attorney Robert T. Torres.

LIVE 8pm-9pm; Replay 8:30-9:30pm (May 9 and May 10)

■ Topic: Response to U.S. Interior Dept proposal for improved immigration status of alien guest workers

Guests: Vicente N. Santos, vice chairman, Marianas Political Status Commission and Covenant negotiator; Oscar C. Rasa, MPSC member and Covenant negotiator.

Shows air live on KSPN Channel 2 on Wednesdays, 7pm-8pm, with replays on Sundays and Mondays at 7pm-8 pm. LIVE Text: 285-META; LIVE Call: 287-4230; LIVE Email: johngonzales@pticom.com

Chamber meeting this Wednesday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its general membership meeting this Wednesday, May 5, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is \$15 for members, \$20 for guests of members, and \$25 for general public. Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos will talk about the current state of the Commonwealth's revenues and expenditures as well as expected trends in the near-term future. **(SCC)**

House committee sets public hearing

The House Committee on Natural Resources will conduct a public hearing today, May 4, at

6:30pm at the Garapan Elementary School cafeteria.

The hearings will take up:

■ H.B. 17-07: To create the 2nd Marianas Political Status Commission

■ H.B. 17-38: Nuclear and Chemical Free Zone Amendment Act of 2010

■ H.B. 17-47: Legalization of Marijuana Act of 2010

Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments three days prior to the public hearing. Contact the Office of Rep. Teresita A. Santos, if you have any questions about this public hearing and fax comments to (670) 664-8813. **(PR)**

Sr. Remedios offers daycare services

Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center will be offering summer daycare services:

■ First Session -- June 8, 2010 to July 3, 2010 (\$200)

■ Second Session -- July 3, 2010 to July 31, 2010 (\$200)

■ Both Sessions -- June 8, 2010 to July 31, 2010 (\$375)

If you are interested call the Sister Remedios office at 234-6247 or email: srrecdc@yahoo.com. **(PR)**

Military to conduct training at Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area-517 today and tomorrow, May 4 and 5, from 8am to 4pm.

The general public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped

polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. **(PR)**

Kagman High sets Junior Night

To all parents/guardians of Kagman High School students, Junior Night is set for May 11, 2010, from 5pm to 7pm at the KHS Cafeteria. If you have any questions, call 237-3840, ask for Mr. Cabrera or Mrs. Sablan. **(KHS)**

Koblerville group to host beautification project

The Koblerville Community Coalition Neighborhood Watch Group will be performing its first Koblerville Beautification and Crime Prevention Project on Saturday, May 15, 2010, at the Koblerville runway (old airport field behind Tottotville), from 10am to 3pm. Volunteers are needed for this project. Call Rose T. Ada-Hocog at 287-0818 for more information. **(PR)**

SVES registration schedule

San Vicente Elementary School registration for school year 2010-2011 will begin on May 24, 2010, from 9am to 12pm and from 1pm to 4pm in the school's main office.

For kindergarten enrollees, the child must be 5 years on or before Aug. 31, 2005, as per BOE policy. Date of birth: between Sept. 1, 2004 and Aug. 31, 2005.


Registration requirements: Birth certificate or passport, health certificate, health/accident insurance, map of residential location, power of attorney/legal guardianship (if applicable), copy of report card, unofficial transcript with the address and phone number of the last school attended.

■ Kindergarten: May 24-28, 2010


■ 1st-3rd grade: June 1-4

■ 4th-6th grade: June 7-11

All newcomers must bring the necessary documents above. Should you have any questions, contact 237-3791. **(PR)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-10-026

OVERHEAD POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM RELOCATION PROJECT (Cross Island Road Improvements, Phase 1)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting sealed bids from qualified contractors for the relocation of overhead power distribution systems along Cross Island Road, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A **mandatory** pre-bid meeting followed by a site visit, is scheduled for **April 27, 2010 at 10:00 AM, local time**, at the CUC Conference Room in the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All bidder are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the project site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work/Bid Forms may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, during working days, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 PM, except on government observed holidays. A non-refundable payment of **\$200.00** is required for the Scope-of-Work and Bid Forms.

One (1) original and six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC —IFB 10-026"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **Thursday, May 06, 2010 at 10 a.m.**, local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). A Clearance from the OIC must be submitted certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing, on **April 29, 2010**, addressed to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager and Mr. Robert Malate, Power Division Engineer at P.O. Box 501220 CK, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Saipan MP 96950.


Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operations

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director



Procurement And Supply CNMI Government



INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB10-OHS-095
Submission Date: May 13, 2010 • Time: 10:30 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) DESKTOP COMPUTERS FOR THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ PATRICK J. TENORIO
Special Assistant for Homeland Security

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Ex-lawmaker Maratita, others file class action vs Mobil

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former lawmaker Janet U. Maratita and three other persons filed a class action suit against Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. for allegedly secretly neglecting to use proper equipment to ensure that harmful chemicals do not leak into the environment.

Maratita, Joaquin Q. Atalig, Jose P. Kiyoshi, and Felipe Q.

Atalig filed the lawsuit through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho.

They are suing Mobil for alleged violation of Article I of the CNMI Constitution, negligence, nuisance, battery, and unfair or deceptive business practices.

The asked the court to shut down Mobil's Saipan terminal and order the oil company to pay them damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Saipan Tribune tried but

failed to get comments from Mobil Oil.

Mobil owns the bulk gasoline terminal at the Puerto Rico Drive in Saipan's Lower Base area and operates it under a lease with the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Refined petroleum products are shipped from the Cabras terminal in Guam to the Saipan terminal. The Saipan terminal distributes these products by pipeline from their stor-

age tanks to their loading racks, where the products are loaded into tank trucks.

According to the plaintiffs, the Saipan terminal loading racks have been in operation since Dec. 16, 1997, without being equipped with vapor collection and processing systems as required by the New Source Performance Standards or the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants

requirements.

Since that time, Quichocho said, Mobil has failed to limit emissions from the loading of liquid product into gasoline tank trucks to not more than 10 milligrams of total organic compounds per liter of gasoline loaded—as required by NSPS or NESHA.

Since June 14, 1998, Quichocho said, the Saipan terminal has been operating without continuous monitoring systems. He said that Mobil has failed to conduct

NSPS performance tests as its Saipan terminal's loading racks—as required by NSPS or NESHA—since 1992 and that Mobil has made sure there would no evidence of the harmful emissions by failing to properly test for emissions.

Quichocho, on behalf of Kiyoshi, Atalig, and Rabby Syed, also filed a class action lawsuit against Mobil Oil and Shell in November 2009 for allegedly colluding to fix fuel prices in the Commonwealth.

White is new FWS chief for 3 marine national monuments

Continuing her 21-year career in the management of marine protected areas, Susan White has been named the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's new project leader for the Pacific Reefs National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which oversees the three newest marine national monuments in the Pacific.

She will be transferring into her new role on May 9 after serving for the past three years as the FWS Superintendent for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in Hawaii.

"We are fortunate to have someone with Ms. White's experience to lead out expanded opportunities for managing the Rose Atoll, Pacific Remote Islands, and Marianas Trench Marine National Monuments," said Barry Stieglitz, project leader for the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex. "These vast areas—

more than 125 million acres—are the nation's last frontiers for the wildlife conservation and scientific exploration."

In her new role, White will be working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the governments of American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam, as well as partners from private organizations, universities and the public, to implement the presidential proclamations establishing the three marine national monuments.

As a Papahānaumokuākea superintendent, White worked with her co-managers from NOAA, Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to develop and implement the Papahānaumokuākea Monument Management Plan and nominate the monument as a World Heritage site. She

directly supervised management and operations of the two National Wildlife Refuges (Midway Atoll and Hawaiian Islands) within the monument, focusing on conservation of the 14 million seabirds, 23 threatened or endangered species, native habitats, sacred cultural sites, and iconic World War II historic resources.


Prior to going to Hawaii in 2001, White helped supervise managers of 28 refuges in Florida, Mississippi, and southern Alabama and also coordinated marine conservation initiatives. From 2002 through 2005, she was the deputy project leader at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge in coastal southwestern Florida.

She served as the national marine protected area and coral reef program coordinator at the headquarters of the FWS National Wildlife Refuge System between 2000 and 2002, lead-

ing FWS and the Department of the Interior in interdepartmental implementation of the executive orders on coral reef protection and marine protected area. She

also served as the department's staff point of contact for the Coral Reef Task Force and the National Commission on Ocean Policy. She has been a member of the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Area since

1990. Prior to her Washington, D.C., responsibilities, White has had a long history of working on islands, including the Florida Keys and Saba Marine Park in the Dutch West Indies. (USFWS)



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Sorensen gives over \$3K to NMC Foundation

Sorensen Media Saipan, which broadcasts Power 99, The Kat, and ABC 7, recently donated over \$3,600 to the Northern Marianas College Foundation to help improve the college's academic programs and services.

"We have always supported NMC's commitment to enhancing the programs and services that are provided to its students," said station manager Tina Palacios. "We look forward to continuing the partnership we have with them."

The donation was presented in support of the recently-held 8th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Open, which is organized by the NMC Foundation. The tournament, the organization's signature event, aimed to raise critical funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

"Sorensen Media Saipan's donation and their continued support will always be instrumental in our efforts," said NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta.

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds to support the Northern Marianas College, the CNMI's lone postsecondary educational institution.

The golf tournament was



NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta, second from right, receives a check for \$3,600 from Sorensen Media Saipan station manager Tina Palacios, center. Also in photo are, from left, station administrative specialist Norlyn Cabrera and DJs Boney and Tayo.

held on April 24, 2010, at the Saipan Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman. Close to 150 golfers met on the links and competed for over \$100,000 in prizes. (NMC)

NMC English and Math placement test schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English and Math placement tests on the following dates:

■ ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE:

May 13, 1pm - 4pm, Room A-6
May 13, 5pm - 8pm, Room D-1
May 18, 5pm - 8pm, Room D-1
July 1, 1pm - 4pm, Room D-1

■ MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE:

May 18, 10am - 12pm, Room A-7
May 19, 10am - 12pm, Room A-7

Those who wish to take courses at NMC must take the placement tests. Registration for NMC's Summer 2010 semester will begin on Wednesday, May 19, 2010.

There is a \$25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 8:30am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee). Payment for the applica-

tion fee will cover the English placement test fee.

Test takers must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Calculators may be used when taking the math placement test. NMC students are not allowed to take the math placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for NMC students who have not taken a math class within one year of taking the math placement test.

For more information about the English placement test, contact James Kline at (670) 234-5498 ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242 at the Languages & Humanities Department. About the math placement test, contact the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1200 or 1212.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Spring 2010 semester, log on to www.nmc-net.edu. (NMC)

Hyatt F.O.R.C.E. sets Family Fun Night at the Hyatt beach

On May 7, 2010, the Hyatt F.O.R.C.E. (Family of Responsible and Caring Employees) will be having a Family Fun Night to raise funds for the Marianas March Against Cancer.

The carnival will be held from 5pm to 9pm and will be filled with lots of games for young and old alike. Delicious food and tropical drinks will also be on sale. Games such as dunking booth, fishing, spin the wheel, and many more will be featured

on that night. There'll be games even for fathers who enjoy golfing to putt a few holes while the kids are enjoying the arts and craft, balloon darts, face painting, etc., and for mothers, who may visit the rummage sale tent for odds and ends they've been looking for.

All proceeds raised on Family Fun Night will be donated to Marianas March Against Cancer, according to Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 4, 1999

SGMA: Taxing CNMI garments will kill local manufacturers

Local garment manufacturers will be forced out of business if US Congress passes a proposed legislation taking away the duty-free privileges granted the Northern Marianas, paving the way for foreign countries to bring more apparel goods into the mainland. This is the contention of the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association in a letter that will be sent to members of the US House of Representatives in efforts to thwart attempts to tax CNMI products entering the American domestic market. The letter also comes on the heels of recent statements made by the American Textile Manufacturers Institute (ATMI) to US lawmakers lashing out at the "Made in the USA" label in finished garments from the islands which they alleged are produced under sweatshop conditions.

Bill seeks longer hours for selling liquor

Stores may be allowed to sell beer and other alcohol up to midnight everyday if a pending bill becomes law, but they will have to pay stiffer price to do it—higher license fees. Legislators are proposing an increase of more than 300 percent in the fees under the legislation seeking to revamp the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act which has been in effect on the island since the Trust Territory administration. Andrew Salas, ABC administrator at the Department of Commerce, said the rate hike is expected to push prices of beer, wine and liquor once the administration-sponsored measure is signed into law.

May 4, 2000

Condition in garment industry has improved—OSHA

With the extensive reforms carried out by garment manufacturers on the island on health and safety issues, Saipan may well become a model for all the garment factories in the world, according to a federal official. Frank Strasheim, administrator for Region IX of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, commended garment manufacturers for working cooperatively with OSHA in implementing changes and willingness to have their factories inspected. "We think that garment factories have come a long way. What I can see is the prospect of the garment industry in Saipan not only doing much better on workers' safety but become a worldwide model for the garment industries everywhere," said Strasheim.

DOF: Apparel exports soared \$1.062B

The apparel manufacturing industry on Saipan rallied stronger than expected as it registered a modest growth in garment exports by the end of the century, reaching \$1.062 billion from the previous year's \$994.6 million. Of all the existing industries in the Northern Marianas, only the garment manufacturing sector posted increase primarily due to its dependence on the U.S. economy, which has remained unperturbed by the Asian economic conditions and the rising fuel costs. During the same year, the construction industry suffered a severe blow falling beyond the \$20 million-mark by end-December 1999 due to the declining number of new investors in the CNMI and the absence of expansion by existing businesses on the island.

May 4, 2001

Additional funding eyed for cancer prevention program

The American Cancer Society yesterday underscored the need to expand community-based outreach programs on smoking prevention, treatments and support services to fight the increasing number of cancer and other related diseases. According to ACS Relay for Life Co-Chair Carlene Tenorio, the ACS-Hawaii Pacific Division Inc. and the CNMI community aim to raise more funds from the Relay for Life to sustain cancer prevention programs and patient services. She said it is necessary to increase resources and technical assistance for local health facilities and to achieve the goal of eliminating cancer as a major disease in the community.

Guam's investment act heads to the US Senate

The House passed Congressman Robert A. Underwood's HR 309 or the Guam Foreign Investment Equity Act, by a voice vote. The Act now heads to the Senate, where Mr. Underwood hopes action will be as quick. "I have already sent letters to Senator (Daniel) Akaka (D-Hawaii) and Senator (Frank) Murkowski (R-Alaska) for their support and hopefully the Senate will act as quickly as the House," the congressman said. The Guam Foreign Investment Equity Act would include Guam in treaty-negotiated tax rates on foreign investment in the US. Since at least 75 percent of the investment capital that comes into Guam is from foreign sources, if passed into law, the Equity Act would provide Guam with the same advantageous rates as the states.

Can you identify?

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Saipan Tribune, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.



If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.



Last week's photo was tentatively identified as Rita Mettao Castro. Identified by Remedio Cangco and Mary Roppul.

Island Snapshots



INTERIOR BRIEFING

Office of Insular Affairs field representative Jeff Schorr, center, provides press secretary Angel Demapan, left, and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), right, with copies of the U.S. Department of the Interior's report to the U.S. Congress on the status of alien workers in the CNMI, during a meeting in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill on Friday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

BUDGET HEARING

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel Demapan, second from left, gestures, while director of Courts Tracy Guerrero, left, CNMI Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, second from right, and deputy director of Courts Sonia Camacho, right, look on during the House Ways and Means Committee 2011 budget hearing on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



MANTA BAND

The Manta Band members strike a pose after their special performance at the "Band Shell" in Central Park before their competition in New York City. With them are the band's long-time friend and conductor from Japan Atsushi Ozawa, SSHS principal Craig Garrison, music director Will DeWitt, and former principal of SSHS Peter Le'au.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MCFANS

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, and Marcia "Ruri" Ayuyu, center, pose with visiting Ronald McDonald, right, after Inos signed a proclamation at the Office on Aging declaring May Older Americans Month on Thursday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Tourists and residents in front of Thai House Restaurant's booth at the Taste of the Marianas on Saturday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, and Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, second from left, are among those in the crowd watching cultural dances and other live performances at the Taste of the Marianas on Saturday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 21st birthday to jamila b. Magofna, who is celebrating her special day today! Hope you enjoy your day. May God bless you and may you have many more years to come. Greetings come from your mom, your sisters and brothers and most of all your kidz and your nephews and niece.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



COMBAT TRAINING

Another CNMI son recently graduated from Basic Combat Training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Specialist/E-4 David John M. Apatang graduated April 30, 2010. He was in F Battery, 1st BN, 19th Field Artillery, 1st Platoon. He graduated along with over 200 new soldiers in F Battery. Apatang is married to Chasmyn Santos Apatang and they have two sons and one on the way. Apatang follows in the footsteps of his father, retired 1SG and former congressman David M. Apatang. His wife, children, parents, parents-in-law and family members are proud of his accomplishment. He began his AIT yesterday, May 3, 2010, at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma and his MOS is 14J.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



TASTE OF THE MARIANAS

Tropical Blendz band serenades the crowd with island songs at the 12th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park in Garapan on Saturday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



An employee of the D'Elegance Café prepares barbecue in their food booth, which bagged the first prize in the first Marianas hut decorating contest at the 12th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden on Saturday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



A boy marvels at the decorations in front of the Pacific Islands Club food booth at the Taste of the Marianas on Saturday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Interior's recommendation for status: What does it mean?

On April 30, 2010, the U.S. Department of the Interior made public its "Report on the Alien Worker Population in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands." This report is mandated by Title VII of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, "CNRA", popularly known as the "federalization law," which extended federal control over immigration matters in the CNMI. Section 702 of the CNRA requires that a report be made to Congress no later than May 10, 2010, with respect to the foreign worker population in the CNMI. This is the report that we have been hearing about from the foreign worker population as "the Big Decision in May," which we wrote about in our March 2, 2010 column. The interest in the DOI report has been intense; almost every visitor to our office asks about "the Big Decision." Now that the report is public, we need to ask ourselves, what does it mean?

THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT

The CNRA requires that DOI (1) report the number of aliens resid-

Letters to the Editor

Prioritize investors

I was surprised with the proposal on the alien eligibility to apply for a green card after a legal five-year or more stay in the CNMI. If approved, this will definitely cause a huge impact to the locals that will be striving to acquire better jobs but will be facing more hardships since I am certain the aliens that will be eligible for the above proposal will also be trying for the same.

I do not know for sure if this is the final proposal to Congress on what to do with the almost 16,000 aliens residing legally in the CNMI, but they seemed to overlook those outside, non-U.S. investors that may not fall in the five-year requirement but have legitimate businesses that provide jobs for the community. What do they have to offer these people? Are they also to follow the five-year-and-up requirement? I find these people to be more a priority since they provide work for both residents and nonresidents alike.

Are we looking to face a loss of more investors and find an increase in population, further increasing a potential disaster with the lack of proper employment to sustain these people? I think we will be facing another crisis, seeing an increase in federal programs such as food, and housing to accommodate the workless. The Interior in my opinion should have opened the doors first to potential investors and declaring their requirements for eligibility rather than jumping right into the alien population as a whole. Protect our investors, both local and non-local, to ensure we have an ample supply of jobs to sustain the growth of the population!

William M. Lely
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

'Surrender the CNMI government to foreign workers'

I wonder if Mr. Anthony Babauta will mind if Guam allows 200,000 foreign workers to be granted U.S. citizenship so they can vote and replace all the Chamorro senators, governors and lieutenant governors, mayors and other local leaders to lead their island. This is what Mr. Babauta is trying to do to the CNMI. If 15,816 alien workers who have resided in the CNMI for more than five years are granted U.S. citizenship, by next general election, we will have former nonresident workers as our governor, lt. governor, mayors, representatives, senators, and other civic leaders. The destiny of our islands will be controlled by citizens of foreign Third World countries. And this will not end here. More and more of these new U.S. citizens will again sponsor their families from their countries to stay and work and eventually become another batch of U.S. citizens. It will never end!

How many registered CNMI voters are qualified to vote now? According to the Board of Election Web site, as of March 31, 2010, there are 16,102 registered voters. So you see, we will be outnumbered very, very soon and we will lose our islands to the natives of foreign countries.

Thank you Mr. Babauta, but no thanks. You can take your recommendation and dump it in the Marianas Trench where no one can retrieve it.

Vicente M. Sablan
Kagman III, Saipan

ing in the Commonwealth; (2) describe the legal status (under federal law) of such aliens; (3) state the number of years each alien has been residing in the Commonwealth; (4) estimate the current and future requirements of the Commonwealth economy for an alien workforce; and (5) make recommendations with respect to the long term status of lawfully admitted guest workers.

Number of Aliens

The report sets the number of aliens as of Jan. 1, 2010 at 20,859, and the number of workers at 16,304. This number is based on the Ombudsman's Accounting conducted in December 2009. This was a voluntary registration program initiated by the Ombudsman on an accelerated time frame. It is likely that the number of aliens in the CNMI was underreported in this count for the following reasons:

1. Registration was voluntary and offered no immediate benefit;
2. Foreign workers had just been through a difficult and time consuming umbrella permit process and many were unwilling to devote more time to registering;
3. Many aliens who are out of legal status were likely afraid to participate;
4. Many foreign investors had the perception that the registration drive was only for contract workers;
5. Many citizens of the FAS did not feel the need to participate since, although technically aliens, they have a special status that allows them to freely travel and work in any state or territory of the U.S.

It is interesting to compare the 20,859 total aliens and the 16,304 workers in the Ombudsman's accounting with the 22,417 alien workers reported by the CNMI government on May 27, 2008. The CNMI government's number represents all aliens whose permit category allows them to work in the CNMI and is the cap of permissible foreign workers in the CNMI established by regulation. It does not include students, IRs of aliens, FAS citizens and their IRs, and members of several limited categories. It is apparent to us that the actual, accurate number of aliens in the Commonwealth remains a moving target. We hope that the current U.S. census may provide us with more reliable numbers. The ongoing uncertainty with respect to demographic data in the CNMI will impede efforts to intelligently plan for the future.

Years of Residence in the CNMI

The number of years of residence in the CNMI is reported by the DOI as follows:

5 years or more	15,816
3-5 years	2,221
6 months to 3 years	1,979
Less than six months	819
Undeclared	24

The recommendation for permanent status in the last part of the DOI report would affect aliens lawfully present in the CNMI prior for at least five years, or roughly 76 percent of the aliens present in the Commonwealth according to the DOI report. It is yet unclear how the five years would be counted. Two likely dates would be prior to Nov. 28, 2009, or prior to the enactment date of future legislation conferring such status.

Future Need for Alien Workers

The report estimates the CNMI's future need for foreign workers in 2014 as 15.9 percent over what we have today. This is the weakest part of the report because it is based on the projected future needs of only 10 businesses in the CNMI. We hope that the resources will become available to do the kind of data gathering, analysis and economic modeling that this inquiry deserves. Because this issue will determine whether or not the transition period is extended beyond Dec. 31, 2014, it behooves both the CNMI and the U.S. governments, as well the CNMI private sector, to ensure that a better supported assessment is made.

Long Term Immigration Status

This was the most eagerly awaited section of the report; this is the Big Decision in May, the recommendation that a large portion of our foreign worker population has been counting on to decide their future. The report states:

Consistent with the goals of the comprehensive immigration reform, we recommend that the Congress consider permitting alien workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for a minimum period of five years to apply for long-term status under the immigration and nationality laws of the United States.

What does this mean? Well, it means that the DOI supports the aspirations of CNMI foreign workers for enhanced immigration status. That is a very crucial step. But it also means that "long term status" has a long way to go. This is nothing more than a recommendation to the U.S. Congress. Congress can take it or leave it, depending on how politically important the issue becomes.

It is important to keep in mind just what a very insignificant

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By **MAYA KARA** and
BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

member of the U.S. political family we really are: Based on July 2009 population estimates for both the CNMI (51,484) and the U.S. (307,006,550), the CNMI, including the foreign worker population, comprises just .0167 percent (or 17 out of every 100,000) of the total population of the U.S. We have only a non-voting delegate in Congress (although this itself was a big step forward), and if you could fly in a straight line we are located 7,804 miles from Washington D.C. Most members of Congress never heard of us and they have little reason to care about our problems.

Nevertheless, the recommendation appears to tie the issue to comprehensive immigration reform, which is rapidly gathering momentum in the U.S. Congress as the next likely major legislative effort of the Obama administration. If comprehensive immigration reform is enacted, it is possible that with creative politicking, the status of CNMI guest workers may be included. There are a lot of uncertainties and a long road ahead. Please recall that, despite the determined support of such powerful members of Congress as Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii and Rep. George Miller of California, it took Congress approximately 14 years to enact the immigration provisions of the CNRA, beginning with Senate oversight hearings in September 1994. And don't forget the substantial anti-immigrant movement in the U.S.; they're not all holed up in Fortress Arizona.

Status Options

Although the report recommends "long-term" status, it does not recommend any specific status. It offers five options for possible consideration:

1. U.S. citizenship conferred by Act of Congress;
2. Permanent resident status ("green card") leading to US citizenship under the INA; five qualifying years spent anywhere in the U.S. or its territories;
3. Permanent resident status ("green card") leading to US citizenship under the INA; five qualifying years spent in the CNMI;
4. Status like that granted to citizens of the FAS, which would allow qualified aliens to live and work anywhere in the U.S. or its territories;
5. Status like that granted to citizens of the FAS, which would allow qualified aliens to live and work in the CNMI only.

We are pleased to see that DOI has fulfilled what we see as its moral obligation to support the foreign workers it has encouraged for so long. It is important to keep in mind, however, that the recommendation is only to grant long-term status, but not the form that status may take. The five options are only suggestions to Congress on how it might be accomplished. There is no guarantee that Congress will decide to do anything. If Congress does act on Interior's recommendation to develop legislation to implement the recommendation, Congress can and will make its own choices regarding the terms and conditions of any long-term status. We only hope that the law is enacted while it can still do some good. The umbrella permits of foreign workers will all expire on Nov. 27, 2011, only 19 months from now. If legislation for long-term status is not enacted before that date, aliens who have not acquired status under the Immigration and Naturalization Act will all be subject to removal—that's U.S. immigration-speak for "deportation"—unless some further interim relief is established. We sincerely hope the issues will be resolved before then.






There is precedent in U.S. immigration law for a broad grant giving alien workers in a U.S. territory the ability to apply for U.S. permanent residence. That was in the U.S. Virgin Islands in 1982. The CNMI can and should draw lessons from the many parallels between the two territories' circumstances. We'll write about it next week.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Rain	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Breezy	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼79
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲87 ▼77

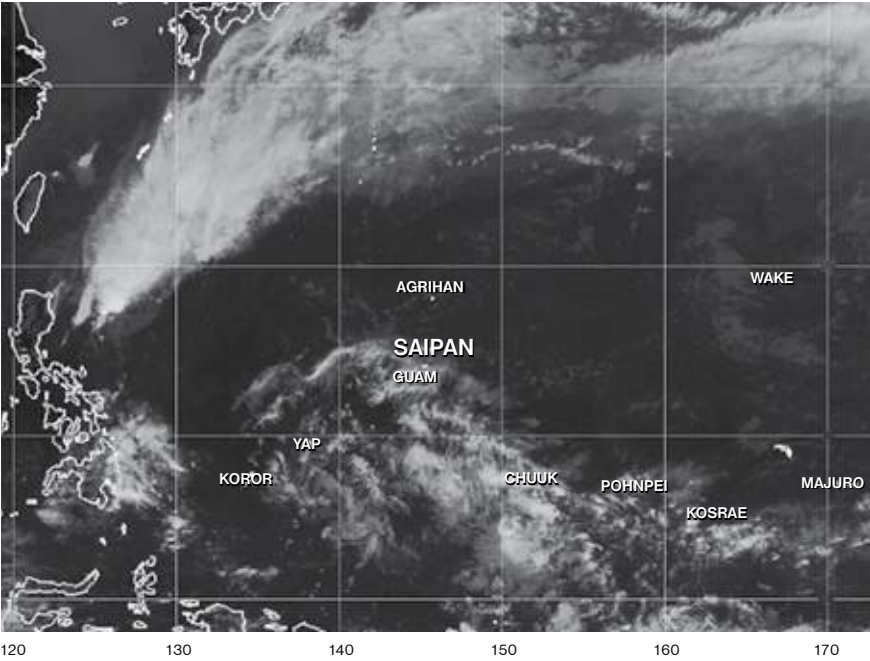
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼53
Beijing	Showers	▲81 ▼62
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲77 ▼73
Honolulu	Showers	▲83 ▼73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲58 ▼42
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲77 ▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼83
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼52
Miami	Sunny	▲87 ▼75
New York	Thundershowers	▲79 ▼60
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▼59
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲58 ▼41
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼56
Rome	Rain	▲73 ▼61
Salem	Rain	▲55 ▼40
San Francisco	Sunny	▲68 ▼52
Seoul	Showers	▲69 ▼55
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲74 ▼57
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲80 ▼65

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:41 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
6:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	
10:19 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	
6:05 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends northeastward from 19N130E to 24N138E then eastward to 25N146E then farther north and east as a cold front. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough stretching southward from 7N144E to EQ140E is generating a large area of scattered showers south of the Marianas and between Yap and Chuuk from 2N to 9N between 139E and 153E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers south of Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro within 90 miles of a line from 5N154E to 4N161E to 4N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:43 PM	10:30 AM
Wednesday		11:21 AM
Thursday	12:24 AM	12:11 PM
Friday	1:02 AM	12:58 PM
Saturday	1:37 AM	1:45 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM				GUAM-ROTA (ROP)			
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5	C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily	C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily	DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6	CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS	OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM	OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM	C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

BP chief: Failed equipment caused explosion, spill

WASHINGTON (AP)—BP's chairman is rejecting criticism that his company's safety record played a role in the drilling rig explosion and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Lamar McKay is putting the blame on "a failed piece of equipment." He tells ABC's "This Week" that he doesn't know how much oil is flowing from the well off the Louisiana coast. He says that estimates of 5,000 barrels a day are uncertain. McKay said BP is "throwing every resource that we've got" to try to plug the well a mile beneath the sea. He says he can't say when the well might be closed. But he says he believes a dome that could be placed over the well is expected to be deployed in six to eight days.

Berkshire execs blame turmoil on faulty regulation

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Warren Buffett and Charlie Munger again defended Goldman Sachs Group Inc. on Sunday, saying faulty government regulations are to blame for most of the economic turmoil of the past few years, not investment banks. Berkshire Hathaway's top two executives met with reporters a day after taking questions before a crowd of about 37,000 at the Omaha company's annual meeting. Buffett has been one of Goldman's biggest supporters before and since the Securities and Exchange Commission filed its civil lawsuit against the bank last month. Berkshire holds \$5 billion in preferred shares of Goldman. Buffett said he has no plans to sell those shares because they remain a very good investment and are paying 10 percent interest a year.

Asian stocks drop as China raises bank reserves

SINGAPORE (AP)—Asian stocks fell Monday after China ordered banks to raise their reserves, the latest in a series of moves aimed at curbing inflation and surging property prices. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index led decliners, falling 294.42 points, or 1.4 percent to 20,814.47 while South Korea's benchmark dropped 1.2 percent to 1,720.88. Singapore slid 0.9 percent, India fell 0.7 percent and Australia skidded 0.6 percent after the government said it would impose a new tax on the profits of mining companies. Stock indexes in Malaysia and Indonesia were steady. Trading volume was light in Asia as the two biggest markets, Japan and China, were closed for holidays. Markets in Thailand and the Philippines were also closed.



A Continental Airlines plane passes an United Airlines plane parked at a gate at George Bush Intercontinental Airport Sunday, May 2, 2010, in Houston. AP

Source: Continental and United to combine

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Directors at Continental and United airlines have approved a deal that would combine them into the world's largest airline, a source with knowledge of the situation said on Sunday.

The stock-swap deal values Continental at some \$3.2 billion.

Combining Continental and United would leave the U.S. with three big international airlines—the new United, Delta, and American. US Airways Group Inc. also flies internationally, but its 2009 international traffic was less than one-third the size of American's.

The Sunday board actions were described by a person with knowledge of the votes,

who declined to be identified because the companies plan an announcement on Monday.

The combined airline will be called United, based in United's hometown of Chicago, and run by Continental CEO Jeffery Smisek. United CEO Glenn Tilton will be chairman.

United, a unit of UAL Corp., is the nation's third-largest carrier by traffic. Continental Airlines Inc., in Houston, is the country's fourth biggest.

Any deal would need the approval of antitrust regulators. The Justice Department approved Delta Air Lines Inc.'s purchase of Northwest in 2008, which turned Delta into the world's biggest carrier.

Another key issue in putting the two airlines together will be integrating the pilot workforce.

A union hot line message to United pilots on Sunday said the "union remains engaged in this issue, and if a merger is announced by United and Continental," union officials "are fully prepared to protect and defend the interests of all United pilots."

Continental and United both trace their roots to air services founded by Walter Varney in the 1920s and 30s.

One of United's main attractions is its Pacific routes, which it bought from Pan-Am in 1985. It was already the biggest carrier in the U.S., and the Pan-Am deal made it a major interna-

tional carrier for the first time. Northwest's Pacific routes were one reason Delta pursued that deal two years ago.

Continental jumped in size in 1987 by swallowing Frontier, People Express and New York Air.

Both airlines shrank to cope with the recession. United cut capacity 7.4 percent last year, and Continental shrank 5.2 percent.

And they've both been losing money. Continental reported a 2009 loss of \$282 million as revenue plunged 17.4 percent to \$12.59 billion. UAL lost \$651 million for the year as revenue fell 19.1 percent to \$16.34 billion.

The market capitalization for

UAL Corp. on Friday was \$3.62 billion, while Continental's was \$3.12 billion.

Just two years ago, American Airlines was the nation's biggest carrier. First Delta surpassed it, and now United might. More than pride is at stake. Corporate travelers gravitate toward airlines with the most routes.

On April 8, when there was talk that United and US Airways were discussing a deal, American CEO Gerard Arpey said the company was "not in any way threatened" by the merger talk involving other carriers.

"We think we're in a very good position irrespective of what may happen," he said at the time.

Euro partners agree on \$145B Greek bailout

BRUSSELS (AP)—European governments and the International Monetary Fund on Sunday committed to pull Greece back from the brink of default, agreeing on euro110 billion in emergency loans on the condition Athens make painful budget cuts and tax increases.

The rescue is aimed at keeping Greece from defaulting on its debts and preventing its financial crisis from infecting other indebted countries just as Europe is struggling out of recession.

After chiding Athens for years of mismanagement and cheating on their budget reporting, the IMF and Greece's 15 partners that share the euro currency rewarded Prime Minister George Papandreou for tough measures including cuts in civil servant's pay.

"I have done and will do everything so the country does not go bankrupt," Papandreou told a nation which now faces years of painful belt-tightening after years of overspending.

France, Greece's most sympathetic partner, agreed there was no other choice.

"It's a very harsh plan because there was a lot of laxity," Finance Minister Christine Lagarde said.

But even Germany, long the fiercest critic of Greece's bound-

Greece

Greece has formally asked the European currency zone and the International Monetary Fund for aid to help pull its debt-ridden economy out of crisis.

Population 10.7 million

Religion Greek Orthodox 98%, Muslim 1.3%, other 0.7%

Area 50,949 sq. mi. (131,957 sq. km)

Economic woes, 2009

- Budget deficit was 13.6 percent of GDP
- Ratio of government debt to GDP 115.1 percent, highest in the EU

Getting help

- Euro zone nations will provide emergency loans of up to 30 billion euros (\$40 billion) in the first year, with a further 10 billion euros (\$13 billion) coming from the IMF



Sealing the deal

- Bailout has to be reviewed by the EU executive and the European Central Bank
- Must be approved by the other 15 countries that use the euro

Source: CIA World Factbook, AP, BBC

less spending, saw the need to back a euro-partner in such dire need—if only to keep the shared currency out of more trouble. The crisis is already threatening other eurozone countries with huge financial problems, including Portugal and Spain.

"It is not an easy decision but there is no alternative," German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble said after the eurozone finance ministers approved the package in an emergency meeting in Brussels.

Lagarde also insisted that "ev-

eryone has an interest in Greece being stable and trusted."

The plan will still need approval by some countries' parliaments. But the eurogroup head, Luxembourg's Jean-Claude Juncker, said Greece will get the first funds by May 19, when Athens has euro8.5 billion worth of a 10-year bond maturing.

Next Friday, the government leaders of the eurozone will convene in Brussels for an extraordinary summit to wrap up the rescue package and look at ways to avoid it in the future.

China's central bank hikes banks' reserve minimum

BEIJING (AP)—China has ordered banks to raise the amount of money they hold in reserves for a third time this year in a new effort to dampen inflation pressures in the world's third-largest economy. The measure, announced Monday, comes as the government tries to cool a credit boom without raising interest rates, which might slow China's economic rebound. Economic growth surged to 11.9 percent in the first quarter of the year and the government is trying to cool a surge in housing and other prices fueled by massive bank lending.

The People's Bank of China told banks to increase reserves by half a percentage point to 17 percent of their deposits for large institutions and 14 percent for most others.

The bank gave no explanation but analysts said it was trying to rein in rapid growth in China's money supply following an upsurge in inflows of speculative "hot money."

Such investors are hoping to profit from a rise in Chinese asset prices in foreign currency terms if Beijing loosens

exchange rate controls and allows its yuan to gain against the dollar, which many expect in coming months.

The flood of money coursing through the economy pushed up politically sensitive housing prices by 11.7 percent in March over a year earlier.

"The government's campaign against property speculation is now center stage," said Mark Williams, of Capital Economics in London, in a report.

Beijing might increase bank reserves as often as once a month for the rest of the year while avoiding interest rate hikes until it sees how well the measure is working, Williams said.

"Today's decision should be seen accordingly as a normal part of the PBC's monetary management rather than as a signal of tightening to come," Williams said.

Regulators have been steadily tightening controls on lending by China's state-owned banking industry after it was ordered last year to step up credit to support Beijing's 4 trillion yuan (\$586 billion) stimulus.

Nation

NYPD: Video has possible SUV bomb suspect in alley

NEW YORK (AP)—Police investigating a terror attack that could have set off a deadly fireball in Times Square focused Sunday on finding a man who was videotaped shedding his shirt near the SUV where the bomb was found.

Police said the gasoline-and-propane bomb was crude but could have sprayed shrapnel and metal parts with enough force to kill pedestrians and knock out windows on one of America's busiest streets, full of Broadway theaters and restaurants on a Saturday night.

The bomb "looks like it would have caused a significant fireball" had it fully detonated, police Commissioner Ray Kelly said.

A large amount of fertilizer rigged with wires and fireworks was found with the bomb, but police said it was not the ammonium nitrate grade that can explode.

The surveillance video shows an unidentified white man apparently in his 40s slipping down an alley and taking off a shirt, revealing another underneath. In the same clip, he's seen looking back in the direction of the smoking vehicle and furtively putting the first shirt in a bag, Kelly said.

The homemade bomb was made largely with ordinary items, including three barbecue grill-size propane tanks, two 5-gallon gasoline contain-



A police officer and a detective stand next to the broken glass where authorities found a bomb that apparently began to detonate, but did not explode, in a sport utility vehicle outside the Minskoff Theatre in New York, Sunday, May 2, 2010.

ers, store-bought fireworks and cheap alarm clocks attached to wires.

"Clearly it was the intent of whoever did this to cause mayhem, to create casualties," Kelly said.

Authorities didn't know how deadly the bomb could have been, how it failed or who was responsible.

Police had already identified the registered owner of the 1993 Nissan Pathfinder—which didn't have an easily visible vehicle identification

number and had license plates from another car—and were looking to interview him. Police also were searching more video, believed to be in the possession of a Pennsylvania tourist, of a person spotted near the car.

The bomb at Times Square, one of the flashiest and best-known places on Earth, was found at the height of dinner hour before theatergoers headed to Saturday night shows.

Timers were connected to a 16-ounce can filled with fire-

works, which were apparently intended to set the gas cans and propane afire, Kelly said. The vehicle would have been "cut in half" by an explosion, and people nearby could have been sprayed by shrapnel and killed, he said.

Police had feared that another component—a metal rifle cabinet packed a fertilizer-like substance and rigged with wires and more fireworks—could have made the device even more devastating. Test results late Sunday showed that it was indeed fertilizer—but the New York Police Department's bomb experts believe it was not a type volatile enough to explode like the ammonium nitrate grade fertilizer used in previous terror attacks, said police spokesman

Paul Browne.

The exact amount of fertilizer was unknown. Police estimated the cabinet—with a manufacturer-listed weight of 78 pounds—weighed 200 to 250 pounds when they pulled it from the vehicle.

New York's busiest streets, choked with taxis and people on

one of the first summer-like days of the year, were shut down for 10 hours, unnerving thousands of tourists attending Broadway show, museums and other city sights. Detectives took the stage at the end of some shows to announce to theatergoers that they were looking for witnesses in a bombing attempt.

Ariz.'s largest paper: Pols failed on immigration

PHOENIX (AP)—Arizona's largest newspaper criticized U.S. Sens. John McCain and Jon Kyl and a host of other elected officials in a rare front-page editorial Sunday, saying the politicians have failed to find solutions to illegal immigration.

The state has become the target of calls for boycotts since adopting a law that requires local and state law enforcement officers to question people about their immigration status if there's reason to suspect they're in the country illegally.

"The federal government is abdicating its duty on the border. Arizona politicians are pandering to public fear," The Arizona Republic said in a full-page editorial. "The result is a state law that intimidates Latinos while doing nothing to curb illegal immigration."

Doug MacEachern, an editorial writer for the Republic, said the newspaper has put editorials on the front page over the years but this was the first time one filled the front page.

"It's of sufficient importance that we thought it required something very over-the-top to grab people's attention," he

told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The editorial appeared one day after thousands marched against the law in Phoenix and Tucson, Chicago, New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles, among other cities.

McCain was once a champion of comprehensive immigration reform but has abandoned his principles while he fights off a GOP primary challenge this year from former U.S. Rep. J.D. Hayworth, the Republic said.

McCain spokeswoman Brooke Buchanan said the senator has long believed the U.S. needs to secure the border first, and it's "not even close to an election year conversion."

"Sen. McCain has been calling for secure borders for over three years as the violence on the border continues to increase and spill over to our side of the border," Buchanan said Sunday.

Kyl has also dropped efforts for comprehensive reform and is no longer willing to work with Democrats on the issue now that he's a member of the Senate Republican leadership, the paper said.

Obama says stopping oil spill could take many days

VENICE, La. (AP)—No remedy in sight, President Barack Obama on Sunday warned of a "massive and potentially unprecedented environmental disaster" as a badly damaged oil well in the Gulf of Mexico spewed a widening and deadly slick toward delicate wetlands and wildlife. He said it could take many days to stop.

Obama flew to southern Louisiana to inspect forces arrayed against the oil gusher as Cabinet members described the situation as grave and insisted the administration was doing everything it could. Then he took a helicopter ride over the water to view the 30-mile oil slick caused by as much as 210,000 gallons of crude gushing into the Gulf each day.

The spill threatened not only the environment but also the region's abundant fishing industry, which Obama called "the heartbeat of the region's economic life." As of now, it appeared little could be done in the short term to stem the oil flow, which was also drifting toward the beaches of neighboring Mississippi and farther east along the Florida Panhandle. Obama said the slick was 9 miles off the coast of southeastern Louisiana.

Those who live and work in the region braced for the economic impact on fishing and tourism. In front of a cabin and RV park in Boothville, along Louisiana Highway 23, was a plywood sign pleading: "Obama

and then pumping it to the surface. Such a procedure has been used in some well blowouts but never at the mile-deep waters of this disaster.

The leaking well was not only an ecological disaster but a potential political hazard, as well, depending on how the public judges the Obama administration's response. In 2005, President George W. Bush stumbled in dealing with Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf and left the impression of a president distant from immense suffering. His presidency never recovered.

An investigation is under way into the cause of the April 20 well explosion and, depending on its outcome, questions may be raised about whether federal regulation of offshore rigs operating in extremely deep waters is sufficient and whether the government is requiring the best available technology to shut off such wells in event of a blowout.

The president vowed that his administration, while doing all it could to mitigate the disaster, would require well owner BP America to bear all costs. "Your government will do whatever it takes for as long as it takes to stop this crisis," he said.

Oil spill spreads

Current and forecasted locations of the sunken rig oil spill:



Send Help!!!!

BP Chairman Lamar McKay raised faint hope that the spill might be stopped more quickly by lowering a hastily manufactured dome to the ruptured well-head a mile deep in the next six to eight days, containing the oil

ACROSS THE NATION

Toll climbs: 15 dead in Tenn., Miss. storms

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Devastating thunderstorms slammed Tennessee and northern Mississippi over the weekend, killing at least 15 people, five in Nashville, closing scores of highways, and leaving weeks of cleanup for thousands of residents whose homes were damaged. Thousands were evacuated and hundreds of others were rescued from their homes—some plucked from rooftops—as flood waters from swollen rivers and creeks inundated neighborhoods across the region. Hospitals, schools and state buildings also were flooded. Firefighters busted through the windows of Audrey Talley's trailer early Sunday to rescue her family, including her three small grandchildren, ages 9 months to 4 years old. Talley's son woke her up to tell her water was coming into the trailer in south Nashville. Within 10 minutes it was knee deep.

20 sea turtles found dead along Miss. beaches

GULFPORT, Miss. (AP)—At least 20 sea turtles have been found dead this weekend along a 30-mile stretch of Mississippi beaches from Biloxi to Bay St. Louis. While wildlife officials can't say with certainty the turtles, some endangered, died as a result of the oil spill, the number

concerns them. Moby Solangi, director of the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport, Miss., said Sunday this is typically the time of year when turtles wash up on shore. Solangi says even though no oil appears to be on the turtles, they may still have been sickened by consuming oil-coated fish. He says that won't be clear until necropsies are performed on Monday. Some of the dead reptiles are endangered Kemp's ridley turtles.

Mayor: Boston schools open despite huge main break

FRAMINGHAM, Mass. (AP)—Crews made faster-than-expected progress Sunday repairing a broken pipe that cut the clean water supply to 2 million Boston-area residents, prompting Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino to urge schools, businesses and commuters to resume their normal routines as the workweek began. "Boston's open for business," Menino declared during a joint news conference with his fellow Democrat. "So is the whole eastern Commonwealth," added Patrick. Boston School Superintendent Carol Johnson also struck a confident tone as she looked ahead to Monday, saying: "The good news is, for all of our students, we expect to see you in school on time."

Asia

Pakistani Taliban claims NYC car bomb

Reports: North Korean leader travels to China

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il was believed to be making a rare trip to China on Monday amid tensions over the recent sinking of a South Korean warship and stalled nuclear disarmament negotiations, South Korean news reports said.

Kim's train arrived early Monday in tight security at the Chinese border town of Dandong, and the delegation later headed to the port city of Dalian, the Yonhap news agency said. A convoy of 15 limousines was seen arriving at the Furama Hotel, the report said.

North Korea's reclusive leader rarely travels abroad but had been rumored to be planning a trip to neighboring China. He was believed to be on board the train that arrived in Dandong to a phalanx of Chinese soldiers and police blocking traffic and access to the area, Yonhap said, citing unidentified sources in Dandong and Beijing.

Officials at South Korea's presidential Blue House, Uni-

fication Ministry and National Intelligence Service said they could not immediately confirm the reports.

A potential Kim visit to China has been a focus of intense attention in recent months, with six-nation nuclear disarmament talks stalled for a year and tensions rising over the sinking of a South Korean naval ship in late March.

Kim, following through on Chinese President Hu Jintao's invitation last year to visit China, was expected to ask Beijing for financial help as Pyongyang copes with an economic crisis at home.

North Korea quit the disarmament-for-aid talks and conducted a second nuclear test last year, drawing tightened U.N. sanctions. China is North Korea's last ally and biggest aid provider and is widely seen as the country with the most clout with its communist neighbor.

The trip would be Kim's first to China since 2006 and his first since reportedly suffering a stroke in August 2008.

CAIRO (AP)—The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility in a video posted on the Internet Sunday for the attempted car bomb attack in New York City's Times Square, according to the SITE Intelligence Group.

In the 1 minute, 11 second video allegedly released by the Pakistani Taliban, the militant group says the attack is revenge for the death of its leader, Baitullah Mehsud, and the recent slaying of al-Qaida in Iraq leaders Abu Omar al-Baghdadi and Abu Ayyub al-Masri, who were killed by U.S. and Iraqi troops last month north of Baghdad.

SITE, a U.S.-based terrorist tracking organization, first uncovered the video on YouTube. The tape, which later appeared to have been removed from the website, makes no specific reference to the attack in New York, nor does it mention that the location or that it was a car bomb.

New York City's police commissioner said there's no evidence of a Taliban link to the failed car bomb.

In a copy of the tape provided by SITE, an unidentified voice speaking in Urdu, the primary language in Pakistan, says the group takes "full responsibility for the RECENT ATTACK IN THE USA." The speaker says it comes in response to American "interference and terrorism in Muslim Countries, especially in



This image made from video allegedly released by the Pakistani Taliban and provided by SITE Intelligence Group on Sunday, May 2, 2010 shows the opening of a video taking credit for Saturday's attempted car bomb attack in New York City's Time Square.

Pakistan for (the) Lalmasjid operation," a reference to the Pakistani army's 2007 storming of the Red Mosque in Islamabad where militants were holed up inside.

The claim could not be immediately verified. But if it turns out to be genuine, it would be the first time the Pakistani Taliban has struck outside of South Asia. It has no known global infrastructure like al-Qaida. In at least one past instance, the

Pakistani Taliban has claimed responsibility for an attack it played no role in.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs declined to comment on the claim.

"I'm not going to get into assumptions about who might be involved or what their motives might be," Gibbs said on Air Force One as President Barack Obama flew to New Orleans.

At the start of the video, a text in gold letters on black

background celebrates the "jaw-breaking blow to Satan's USA." As the speaker delivers the message, images of the slain militants mentioned flash across the screen. English subtitles are provided at the bottom.

The speaker says the attack also avenges U.S. drone strikes in Pakistani tribal areas that target Taliban leaders hiding there and the "abduction, torture and humiliation" of Aafia Siddiqui.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistani army kills 22 Taliban near Afghan border

PARACHINAR, Pakistan (AP)—Army helicopter gunships pounded insurgent hideouts in northwest Pakistan on Sunday, killing at least 22 militants, a government official said. Samiullah Khan said the hideouts hit were in the Dabori area and its neighboring villages of the Orakzai tribal region near the Afghan border. He added the aerial strikes also destroyed six militant compounds. Khan said the militants fired mortars at an army checkpoint in Mishti Mela area in Lower Orakzai, wounding two soldiers. Pakistani forces launched an operation in Orakzai in mid-March to flush out militants who last year fled an army offensive in South Waziristan. The troops are believed to have retaken several areas from the Taliban in the region.

US-Taiwanese man held after bomb hoax on plane

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A Taiwanese-American man has been detained in China after falsely claiming his luggage contained explosives during a flight from Taipei to the eastern Chinese city of Shanghai, Taiwanese police said Sunday. Taiwan's China Airlines had to divert the

plane with 293 passengers and 22 crew on board to the Chinese city of Hangzhou on Saturday morning after 68-year-old George Lin told the cabin crew about the purported explosives. China Airlines Spokesman Bruce Chen said no explosive was found on board the plane after it was thoroughly searched on landing in the Chinese city of Hangzhou, where Lin was taken away for questioning by Chinese authorities.

Report: Lightning kills at least 16 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A domestic news agency reports lightning has left at least 16 people dead and scores others injured in parts of Bangladesh. The United News of Bangladesh agency says most victims were on farmland or at their homes. Others were walking along roads. The agency says six people died in the northeastern district of Habiganj, 75 miles (120 kilometers) northeast of the capital, Dhaka. It said four others were injured in the district. It said 10 more people died in five other districts in northern, central, southern and northeastern Bangladesh. The report said the injured were taken to hospital. Officials could not be reached immediately for comment.

Thai premier says protesters will be cleared

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's prime minister said Sunday the government was preparing to clear an area of Bangkok defended by thousands of anti-government protesters, seeking to end a crisis which has virtually paralyzed the capital.

Many Thais have grown increasingly frustrated with the stalemate, which has dragged on for nearly eight weeks, claiming the lives of at least 27 people and costing the country tens of millions of dollars. It has sparked concerns of a flare-up

of civil unrest.

"We are sending a clear signal that we have given people enough time to leave (the occupied zone). We are now in the process of sealing off and cutting off support before we actually move in," Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said in an interview with several foreign journalists to be nationally televised.

Thousands of so-called Red Shirt protesters have occupied a barricaded encampment in the commercial heart of Bangkok,

centered on its most up-market shopping district, forcing the closure of several malls and hotels.

Abhisit declined to elaborate on an earlier announced plan to end the crisis which he said did not include the declaration of martial law. In an emergency meeting Sunday, the Cabinet approved special funding for the police to contain the demonstrators.

"My belief is that the majority of the people want the protest to end. Increasingly their patience

is running out. This is a situation we have to handle," he said in the interview.

The protesters, mostly from the rural and urban poor, view the government as an illegitimate puppet of Bangkok's elite and the military, are demanding Abhisit resign, dissolve Parliament and call new elections.

Abhisit has rejected the call for quick elections and publicly suspended talks with the protesters but says he still hopes a political solution will persuade the Red Shirts to leave.

China orders tighter school security after attacks

BEIJING (AP)—When classes resume in China this week, police officers and vans will be stationed outside school gates in the bustling southwestern city of Chongqing while newly installed video surveillance and intruder alarms will be keeping watch over classrooms in eastern Fujian. Guards patrolling school premises in southeastern Jiangxi will carry police batons and pepper spray.

Chinese authorities have ordered school security to be tightened nationwide, part of

the government's effort to assert control and calm public fears after three back-to-back attacks on schools last week that left a few dozen children injured. The measures start on Tuesday when schools reopen after a three-day public holiday.

The latest attack occurred on Friday, when a farmer used a motorcycle to break down the gate of a primary school in the eastern city of Weifang and struck five students with a hammer. He then poured gasoline over his body and burned to

death, reports said.

The Ministry of Public Security issued an emergency notice to police departments around the country to strengthen patrols in and around schools at the beginning and end of the school day and to inspect small hotels, Internet cafes and "recreational sites" next to schools. It also urged investigations to be quickly handled and attackers severely punished.

Police should "strive to provide our students and children with an environment of

strong security and public order to grow up in," said the Saturday notice.

The rollout of measures underscores the government's desire to position itself as being in command in a situation that has given rise to worries about the safety of the country's schools and the ability of China's massive security apparatus to protect the vulnerable. To help assuage fears, domestic media reports on Sunday focussed mostly on how various places were securing their schools.

World

Mexico, Germany urge the world to act on climate

KOENIGSWINTER, Germany (AP)—With the fight against global warming in serious trouble, Germany and Mexico are calling on world leaders to get international negotiations back on track and reach concrete results by the end of the year.

"We need to show the world how serious the threat is," Mexican President Felipe Calderon said as he opened an international climate change conference in Germany on Sunday.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who also spoke at the opening of the conference co-hosted by both countries and aimed at laying the groundwork for the next U.N. conference on climate change, asked nations around the world for more ambition in their efforts to cut greenhouse gases.

While scientists believe global temperatures must not rise by more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to pre-industrial times, the world is now headed for a 3 to 4 degree increase, Merkel said.

"We have to realize that we have quite a long way to go to reach the 2-degree-goal," Merkel said. "Therefore we



Felipe Calderon, President of Mexico, left, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, during a news conference in Bonn, western Germany, Sunday May 2, 2010.

have to ascertain how we can reach our goals nonetheless."

Mexico will host the next U.N. conference on climate change in Cancun in December, the first such high-level summit after the troubled U.N.

conference in Copenhagen five months ago.

Germany has long presented itself as a driving force in the international efforts to curb global warming and came up with the idea of a "mid-term" meeting.

Both countries invited ministers and representatives from around 45 countries for informal talks on the Petersberg up above Koenigswinter.

The three-day conference called the Petersberg Dialogue

hopes to make some progress on details, but most of all build trust between poor and rich nations, Calderon said.

He said the conference could produce a "clear message, this will be the signal whether it will be possible to reach a uniform agreement."

Nations around the world agreed in 2007 to negotiate a new international treaty to fight global warming which scientists say has already started to cause some alarming changes such as droughts, flooding or heavier storms.

A treaty was originally hoped for in Copenhagen, but that meeting produced less than expected.

President Barack Obama and a few dozen other major players drafted the so-called Copenhagen Accord, which includes the 2-degree-goal and an immediate \$30 billion three-year aid package for poorer nations.

However, the accord failed to gain full support at the summit, as some smaller countries felt left out in the process and were unhappy with the results of closed-door negotiations.

German Environment Minister Norbert Roettgen said the

Petersberg meeting is designed to work intensely on some sticking points and to build trust among those who eventually have to work with each other on the U.N. level.

To have something to show for even while the negotiating is going on, nations should agree on concrete projects to curb greenhouse gas emissions or to adapt to climate change, he said.

Calderon and Merkel said one of the areas that could see some progress in Cancun was the fight against deforestation.

Mexico's president stressed that saving forests could help fight poverty at the same time as it would give residents an income.

Since Copenhagen, momentum in the drive to control global warming has slowed in some countries. The U.S. has not tackled its domestic energy bill; and Australia—one of the world's biggest per capita polluters—put off for as long as two years legislation setting up carbon trading.

Roettgen has said his country and others have not given up on striking a deal at the U.N. climate summit in Cancun Nov. 29-Dec. 10.

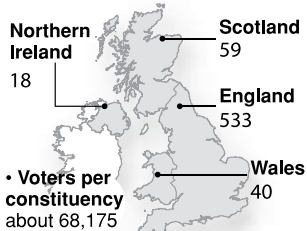
U.K. votes

On May 6, voters in the United Kingdom will elect members of the House of Commons, the lower house of Parliament.

House of Commons

650 members of Parliament (MPs), each represents a constituency

Constituency breakdown



General election

Takes place every five years

Voter must be age 18, registered, British citizen

Voter receives a ballot listing all the candidates standing for election in that constituency

Candidate with the most votes wins, becomes MP for that constituency

New Parliament

Party with most seats forms the government; its leader becomes prime minister

May 25 Queen opens the new Parliament

Source: www.uk.parliament.uk
Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2010 MCT

Gordon Brown: A survivor fighting to avoid defeat

LONDON (AP)—Gordon Brown has never made politics look easy, and Britain's hard-fought election campaign has been a grueling trial for the incumbent prime minister.

The latest episode saw Brown standing Sunday in the driving rain, being heckled by a man who encouraged him to fall under a car. In a campaign in which the smallest details are seized on as symbolic, it was a bad sign.

The sober Scot's attempt to hang on to his job—and keep his Labour Party in power after 13 years—has been battered by gaffes and missteps, and the polls suggest Labour will finish second, or even a humiliating third, when Britons vote Thursday.

But he is battling to the last to save his premiership, imploring voters to focus on his formidable substance, not his forbidding style.

"I think at the end of the day people will vote for the substance," Brown told The Associated Press during a campaign visit to supermarket workers in west London.

"There's obviously lots of interest in various things that go on in the campaign but they come back to the big issues: who's going to be best for the economy, who's going to be best for public services, and I think these are the two questions that people ask me most."

Brown's refusal to give up in the face of discouraging polls and derisive pundits is resulting in a frenetic final few days of polling. On Sunday, he made no less than 10 campaign stops across a rain-splattered London, from a housing-estate police station to a gospel church, a supermarket and a pub.

At the first stop, the police station, there was a warm welcome from Labour supporters, stilted small talk about the bad weather—and a local Conservative councilor, John Hills, shouting "You're rubbish ... There's a car, fall under it."

Brown ignored the remarks, and the Conservative Party said Hills' comments were made "in the heat of an election event."

Some voters were more sym-

pathetic. "He looks more attractive in person than on the TV," said Maude Estwicke, 62, a Londoner whose door Brown knocked on during the day.

Brown's career reads like a classic tragedy, a man whose undoubted intellect and skill were undermined by a lack of charisma and a run of bad luck.

A precocious political star, he was Britain's leader-in-waiting for a decade, but took power just as the Labour Party's—and the country's—fortunes were taking a turn for the worse.

As Treasury chief for 10 years under Tony Blair, Brown steered Britain through a period of unprecedented economic growth. But he was known to covet the top job, which had been his goal since he was a young Labour activist in Scotland.

He finally got it when Blair stepped down in June 2007—a time when the government's popularity had been sapped by unpopular wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and just as the worst economic crisis in more than half a century was taking hold.

Pope all but endorses authenticity of Turin Shroud

TURIN, Italy (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI all but gave an outright endorsement of the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin on Sunday, calling the cloth that some believe is Christ's burial shroud an icon "written with the blood" of a crucified man.

During a visit to the Shroud in the northern Italian city of Turin, Benedict didn't raise the scientific questions that surround the linen

and whether it might be a medieval forgery. Instead, he delivered a powerful meditation on the faith that holds that the Shroud is indeed Christ's burial cloth.

"This is a burial cloth that wrapped the remains of a crucified man in full correspondence with what the Gospels tell us of Jesus," Benedict said. He said the relic—one of the most important in Christianity—should

be seen as a photographic document of the "darkest mystery of faith"—that of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

The 14-foot-long, 3.5-foot-wide (4.3-meter-long, 1 meter-wide) cloth has gone on public display for the first time since the 2000 Millennium celebrations and a subsequent 2002 restoration. Kept in a bullet-proof, climate-controlled case

in Turin's cathedral, it has drawn nearly 2 million reservations from pilgrims and tourists eager to spend three to five minutes viewing it.

The Shroud bears the figure of a crucified man, complete with blood seeping from his hands and feet, and believers say Christ's image was recorded on the linen's fibers at the time of his resurrection.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel's PM welcomes progress toward peace talks

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's prime minister on Sunday welcomed Arab nations' endorsement of indirect, U.S.-brokered peace talks with the Palestinians, saying he is ready to restart negotiations "at any time and at any place." Israeli and Palestinian officials said they expect the talks to begin by early next week, and one Israeli official said the dialogue would go beyond formalities and include preliminary discussions on "core issues" in the decades-long conflict. Details on the exact timing and scope of the talks were still being finalized Sunday, a day after the 22-member Arab League gave the Palestinians the green light for negotiations.

Chavez party members pick candidates

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez's ruling party rallied hundreds of thousands of members to a congressional election primary vote Sunday—a key step in preventing infighting as they battle a resurgent and united opposition. Venezuela's socialist president said roughly 2 million primary voters picked among more than 3,000 candidates seeking to represent the party in September in congressional voting he warns could determine the fate of his "Bolivarian Revolution." Major opposition parties boycotted the last election, arguing the electronic voting system was susceptible to fraud, which allowed Chavez allies to win all the seats in Venezuela's single-house assembly. Since then, the pro-Chavez assembly has granted him the authority to approve special legislation by decree while stripping power from elected officials sided with the opposition.

Medieval African possibly found buried in England

LONDON (AP)—A 13th century skeleton unearthed on the grounds of a friary may be the earliest physical evidence that Africans lived in England in medieval times, a team of researchers said Sunday. Forensics experts at the University of Dundee Scotland say that the bones most likely belonged to a man from modern-day Tunisia who spent about a decade living in England before he died. "I believe that this is the first physical evidence of Africans in medieval England," said Jim Bolton, a historian at Queen Mary, University of London who wasn't involved in the discovery. "Finding a skeleton like this is of major interest," he said. The man—who appears to have died of a spinal abscess—was identified as African by studying his skeleton and the historical record of the friary where he was buried.

Overdrive

Pricey Sienna hauls family with style

By **DAVID OVERCOFFLER**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Unless you've been living under a floor mat for the last six months, you know times have been tough for Toyota.

Global recalls, congressional hearings and public apologies have created an onerous climate in which to introduce a completely redesigned vehicle. Yet that is what the company is doing with the introduction of the 2011 Sienna minivan, which is trickling into dealerships now.

This version is a nearly bow-to-stern makeover of Toyota's family hauler, and it's a good one. True, there's no disguising a minivan as anything else. But if you have to drive a vehicle with such an inescapable social stigma, you might as well do it in one that looks good.

And the Sienna does.

While the previous Sienna was a mash-up that looked like Toyota forgot to style the exterior until the eleventh hour, the 2011 version has some pizzazz to it. The van's horizontal symmetry is clean and handsome. Every model comes standard with alloy wheel and LED taillights.

Inside, the dashboard is functional without being utilitarian on the base models (Sienna, LE), and sophisticated without being congested on the higher-end models (XLE, Limited). Radio and climate controls are well laid-out and intuitive.

Speaking of seats, Toyota's engineers got clever with theirs. The removable middle seats on all Siennas now slide on a nearly 2-foot-long track. Have an attention-hungry (or just plain hungry) toddler sitting behind you? Slide the seat all the way forward to reach her while you stay seated up front. A leggy soccer player more interested in a nap than a shower? Slide the seat all the way back. (Maybe roll down the windows on the sliding doors too.)

Seating for eight passengers is available only with the LE, SE and XLE trim lines. Toyota achieves this by adding an impossibly narrow seat (think celery



LUIS SINCO/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

The 2011 Toyota Sienna. True, there's no disguising a minivan as anything else, but if you have to drive a vehicle with such an inescapable social stigma, you might as well do it in one that looks good.

NUTS & BOLTS

2011 TOYOTA SIENNA

Base price: \$24,260

Price, as tested: \$46,472

Powertrain: 2.7-liter DOHC 16-valve four-cylinder or 3.5-liter DOHC 24-valve six-cylinder with VVT-i; six-speed automatic transmission; front-wheel drive or all-wheel drive

Horsepower: 187 at 5,800 rpm for the

four-cylinder; 265 at 6,200 rpm for the six-cylinder

Torque: 186 pound-feet at 4,100 rpm for the four-cylinder; 245 pound-feet at 4,700 rpm for the six-cylinder

Curb weight: 4,275 pounds for base four-cylinder; 4,735 for AWD six-cylinder Limited

Wheelbase: 119.3 inches

Overall length: 200.2 inches

EPA fuel economy: 19/26 mpg, city/highway for four-cylinder; 18/24 mpg city/highway for six-cylinder FWD; 18/22 mpg city/highway for six-cylinder AWD

Final thoughts: Sienna's high bar is now higher, and better-looking too.

stalk) that can be wedged between the two captain's chairs in the middle row. Stick a normal-sized adult in this seat and you might have trouble extricating him. Kids only please.

Passengers in the rear seats will notice one of the Sienna's biggest shortcomings. Any contact with the plastic panels that make up the interior of the vehicle reveals them to be surprisingly thin, cheap and poorly held in place.

The best place to sit is the driver's seat. Maybe I stayed in the garage too

long with the engine running, but this thing is actually enjoyable to drive. Those of you waiting for the "for a minivan" qualifier better pull up a chair. It's not coming.

It's the result of a three-pronged effort by the transmission, the electric power steering and either of the two available engines.

The V-6 engine is basically the same one that's been in the Sienna for a couple of years and it carries plenty of punch. The 3.5L, 266-horsepower, 245-pound-

feet unit with VVT-i is smooth off the line, emits a pleasing purr upon acceleration and allows the Sienna to tow up to 3,500 pounds of diapers and water wings. It's optional on the Sienna and LE and standard on SE, XLE and Limited.

If fuel economy is more important to you than towing or drag racing other parents, consider the four-cylinder engine available with the Sienna and LE trim lines. This 2.7L inline unit puts out 187 horsepower and 186 pound-feet and Toyota expects it to get around 19/26

mpg. While the four-cylinder's acceleration and sound is no match for its V-6 brethren, it's certainly capable of moving the Sienna around town and even the highway, especially with the help of the six-speed transmission. Its biggest draw will undoubtedly be the price advantage. The base Sienna with the four-cylinder starts at \$24,260, with the LE heading out the door for \$25,345.

New this year is Sienna's six-speed automatic transmission with manual mode. It's simultaneously crisp and tranquil and is well-mated to either engine. A lusty rendezvous with some curvy Malibu hills demonstrated the unit's intelligence at both upshifts and downshifts, as there was rarely a difference between what the driver wanted and what the transmission had chosen. The additional gear also yields a bump in gas mileage for the V-6, with an estimated 18/24 versus the previous model's 17/23.

Also new to the 2011 Sienna is the electric power steering, which is standard on all models. It's wonderfully smooth, light and balanced and you don't feel like Columbus coming about at the helm of the Santa Maria every time you execute a k-turn.

On the heavy end of the pricing spectrum is the Limited model, which starts at \$38,500 and can top out at more than \$48,000 with the fully-loaded AWD model. Yes, that's a lot of clams for a minivan. Yes, I do know what else you can buy for nearly \$50k. Yes, that's an expletive-eliciting price for a glorified shuttle bus full of crayons and B.O.

However, it's worth noting that the options list for this version rivals that of European luxury sedans (think dual-view entertainment center, panorama backup camera, radar cruise-control, front and rear parking sonar, dual moonroofs, navigation system with XM NavTraffic and 10-speaker JBL sound system).

Regardless of how you feel about Toyota as a company or the situation it's currently in, fans of Toyota, Siennas or minivans in general will find plenty to like in the 2011 model.

Just don't get stuck in the celery seat.

Question: We all know about Toyota's recent acceleration problems. Now, deep discounts are being offered on their vehicles. As a potential buyer, some of these specials are enticing—if you're confident the problems have been eliminated.

My question: Have any of the vehicles that were recalled or fixed before being sold had any problems? Or are the occasional reports we still hear involve vehicles that weren't recalled or fixed? If none of the fixed vehicles have had any recurrence, are they safe to buy again?

Answer: So much misinformation is circulating on this issue that it's hard to know what to believe. I don't look at the issue of a stuck throttle or unintended acceleration in the same light as many consumers and media watchdogs.

When I constantly see folks driving vehicles with worn out or grossly underinflated tires, broken windshields,



Toyotas were never unsafe to buy

By **PAUL BRAND**
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

inoperative lights, sagging springs or suspensions, structural body damage and the like, it's difficult for me to focus so much attention on an issue that can be resolved instantly by shifting into neutral or shutting off the ignition—and no, the steering will not lock when turning the key to "off." The key cannot be turned to "lock" or removed from the switch unless the transmission shift system is placed in park.

In no way am I minimizing the crashes associated with this problem, but no stuck throttle or unintended acceleration should ever last long enough to become a tragedy. Just as every motorist should know how to deal with a sudden tire failure, every motorist should understand and be aware of how to deal with this scenario

and practice shifting to neutral and shutting off the ignition.

With that said, even though I'm not a huge fan of Toyota, I recognize their longstanding reputation for quality and durability. The number of vehicles in question is a fraction of their production volume. Are they safe to buy again? I don't think they were ever unsafe, so the great deals being offered make buying a new Toyota an exceptionally attractive deal.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I'm driving a 2001 Chevy Astro van. The red "brake" and amber "ABS" (antilock brake system) warning lights have been going on intermittently, usually after I go over a hard bump in the road. I've had the brakes replaced on all four

wheels. A scan tool recorded four fault codes—two for wheel speed sensors, one for the ABS control unit and the other I don't recall.

The mechanic said I could drive it as it is. Another mechanic suggested removing the ABS relay to disable the ABS system and just rely on the power brakes. Any down side to either of these suggestions?

A: Is a crash a "down side"? When both warning lights are illuminated, it means there's a serious problem with the hydraulic power brakes and/or the ABS system. While it's possible some type of electrical issue with the dash or wiring could be causing these lights to come on, you cannot ignore these warning lights.

Primary triggers for the red "brake" warning light are low brake fluid level or faulty level sensor, the parking brake not fully releasing or a problem with the front/rear brake proportioning system. Because the ABS warning light is also on, the electronic brake control module may be detecting an ABS malfunction that disables the rear brake dynamic proportioning. This means the hydraulic brake bias may allow too much rear brake force, which would tend to lock the rear brakes in slippery conditions—an unsafe situation.

Paul Brand, author of "How to Repair Your Car," is an automotive trouble-shooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

Life & Style

A 50-ish man in a nice tailored-to-fit suit, wearing a conservative understated necktie, plays his violin after sunset to a crowd by the bridge between Rong and Shan lakes along Zhongshan Rd. in Guilin. He is a talented musician, perhaps a professor and concert violinist in a city whose statues in its parks are those of artists and philosophers, rather than rulers and warriors.

The musician has an open violin case that welcomes music appreciation in cash. With a portable sound system, our *Signore* has been a regular on the spot since the rain ceased after our arrival a week ago. He acknowledges with a gracious 'xie xie' those who leave something behind, as well as announces his program, which is an eclectic of contemporary to folk Chinese, western classics and Broadway. His acknowledgement, however, has the air of the aristocracy of an artist who says, "I thank you for your support, but I am here primarily to play."

We were transfixed by this artist doing something we normally expect to see outside the Metro gates of D.C., Paris, NYC, and Montreal, but not in China. How long the Park authorities in Guilin will allow this may not be a valid question since we were pleasantly surprised by a couple of young guys with an electric guitar and a portable sound system leap-frog from one table to another on the sidewalk cafes of Yangshuo down Lijiang. They even did request numbers like the professor! This may already be a common and acceptable practice.

My thoughts went quickly to Will DeWitt and his group that just took silver accolade from a performance at NYC's Carnegie Hall. ToY DeWitt of SSHS has been lamenting the dearth of music teachers in the public school system. Will these young people of musical passion and performance talents have an outlet not only to express their enthusiasm further, but also to hone down their skills with expert guidance so that they can make a career and a profession out of performing their gifts and talents? Will they end up panhandling their talents at the Paseo for their livelihood, or will there be a track

that sees their hearts poured out creatively and productively? Perhaps, Craig Garrison and his excellent colleagues at SSHS wrestle that question down from the perspective of pedagogy, as well as professional career direction.

I have on many occasions bewailed our educational bias towards the abstract and the written word. I noticed that the teaching of Chamorro and Carolinian languages depend on reading

China Trails 4: Guilin mon amour

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

and writing, creating a 'cognitive dissonance' since the languages are essentially spoken ones, and are learned by being heard rather than read. (Legislator Ray Palacios was an exception; he sometimes used my guitar when the school's steel guitar snapped a cord and took forever to replace, to teach Chamorro by singing popular songs.) Our standardized tests do not measure performing arts' talents and skills, and we would rather diagnose a child who cannot keep still as suffering from ADHD when the child's 'boredom' could actually be full-filled with the pluckings of the *ukulele*, the drubbing of a drum, and the kinesthesia of a dance!

But let me get back to the geographical and chronological path of our China Trails. Our 27-hour train ride from Shanghai to Guangxi

passed (supposed to be 23 but the rains derailed the schedule) through the famed mulberry-silken Hangzhou by the West Lake in Zhejiang, through Jiangxi and Hunan (Mao's home province), and finally, Guilin of the landscape long familiar to Chinese artists and many around the world. In fact, it is known nationally as *Guilin shan shui jia tian xia*, poorly translated in English as the world's landscape. It should translate more like

the way religious folks consider places where apparitions of saints and sages are claimed to occur, or for the secular types, the way we treat 'sacred space' when New Agers refer to Sonoma in Arizona.

Referred to as the city of two rivers and four lakes, Guilin of the present has been visited by notables like Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter, Richard and Pat Nixon, the two Bushes, and Bill Clinton. In one of my early interviews (I am a pedagogical passion in search of a hospitable educational form), a contact friend-of-a-friend shared a *Dong Bei* veggie meal with me in Guilin, and then offered me an after dinner coffee at the Sheraton. He intended to impress, and I caught a second-hand car salesman's pitch early on, so I resigned to go along with the ride and enjoy his ministrations.

His first pitch to self-importance was pointing out that where he got me seated on the

club lounge of the Sheraton was where Bill Clinton refreshed himself on his visit in 1998. (I was involved in the EcoDev'tZone proposal of Honolulu to DC in '96 and had dinner in the White House lawn hosted by hand-pumping Bill Clinton and Al Gore, so I had a hard time pretending to be impressed!) But the fellow who has an uncanny resemblance to Jim Carrey, and two other look-alikes grace two widely-seen billboard images, was charming and deferring (to the point of being patronizing), so he was company that was not too difficult to countenance.

Guilin, Guangxi's former capital, is a pleasant place to love; many from Indochina, Taiwan and the Philippines come here to love and be loved. I found an affordable (under \$5) room where there was 24-hrs. hot water and I did not have to squat, that looked into and was less than a 100 meters from the Sun and Moon pagodas in Shan Lake, across from the elegant and expensive Lijiang Waterfall Hotel (least expensive room is at least 30 times my liability). In the not too infrequent mist that creates a magical ambience to the area, our souls are nurtured by the yearnings for balance and harmony, expansiveness and comprehensiveness rather than the minds' fixture for control and domination, and tender affection rather than the hearts' greedy urges for hedonistic explosion and ecstasy.

The topography of a former shore in the ocean, its radical upheaval from tectonic shuffles left the wonder of the karst formations and its numerous subterranean caves and rivers a pleasure and a challenge to explore. It is no surprise that the area has been China's land of awe for the last 2,000 years. (*Guang* = expansive; *xi* = west is only a bus ride from Guangzhou where we now have regular charter flights.) And guess what? The predominant *Zhuang* ethnic minority in this Expansive West Autonomous Region might just be relations to the Marianas!

The moon and sun pagodas in Shan Lake in central Guilin are a favored visitors photo op sites where visitors are often offered the traditional ethnic attire to wear for a photo that costs a buck-and-a-half.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some shows delayed but B'way goes on after bomb

NEW YORK (AP)—Broadway upheld a time-honored tradition despite a bomb scare that shut down Times Square on the most popular night of the week: The shows went on.

"There were no evacuations from Broadway theaters," Charlotte St. Martin, executive director of The Broadway League, said Sunday, adding that "all Broadway matinee and evening shows will go on as scheduled today."

The area was shut down Saturday night after authorities found a bomb that apparently began to detonate—but did not explode—in a smoking sport utility vehicle parked on West 45th Street during the busy time between matinee and evening performances.

West 45th Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues is Broadway's Gold Coast, home to such hit shows as "The Lion King" and "Billy Elliot." It is a prime block of theatrical real estate with six theaters facing the street

and two more in skyscrapers that look out over Times Square.

On that block, Saturday evening performances for such plays "Red," "God of Carnage," "Lend Me a Tenor," and "A Behanding in Spokane," were delayed for about a half-hour, and the shows played to smaller numbers of theatergoers than usual, said Adrian Bryan-Brown, a spokesman for the shows.

Theatergoers were kept off 45th Street after the performances.

When the curtain came down, theatergoers at "Red" and "God of Carnage," for example, were asked to exit through the stage-door alley and into the lobby of a hotel that faces Eighth Avenue rather than onto West 45th Street. And at "Billy Elliot," patrons were told to exit the theater through its back doors on West 46th Street.

Hit shows in theaters located away from the area, such as "Wicked," "Fences," "Mamma Mia!" and "Jersey Boys," were unaffected.

Polanski breaks silence over US extradition case

PARIS (AP)—Filmmaker Roman Polanski, breaking a months-long silence, said Sunday that the U.S. is demanding his extradition from Switzerland on a 33-year-old sex case largely to serve him "on a platter to the media."

Polanski, who is under house arrest in his Alpine Swiss chalet, laid out his case against extradition on an online magazine run by one of his staunchest supporters, French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy.

"I have had my share of dramas and joys, as we all have, and I am not going to try to ask you to pity my lot in life," he wrote. "I ask only to be treated fairly like anyone else."

Polanski suggests the case against him is unjust and riddled with problems. Each argument begins with the phrase: "I can remain silent no longer."

One of Polanski's complaints is that Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley, "who is handling this case and has requested (the) extradition, is himself campaigning for election and needs media publicity!" Cooley is running for California attorney general.

The district attorney's spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said the office "will withhold comment until the Swiss

make a decision on his fugitive status."

Swiss authorities are trying to decide whether to extradite Polanski to Los Angeles for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl.

The Oscar-winning director of "Rosemary's Baby," "Chinatown" and "The Pianist" was put behind bars



Polanski

for more than two months before being transferred on \$4.5 million bail to house arrest in the luxury resort of Gstaad. Polanski wrote in the online magazine, *La Regle du Jeu*, that he had mortgaged his apartment to pay the bail.

Three decades ago, Polanski was accused of plying his victim with champagne and part of a Quaalude during a modeling shoot and raping her. He was initially indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molesting and sodomy. He later pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful sexual intercourse.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†**CALISTRO SABLAN CEPEDA**

Lovingly known as "Kelly"

Was born to life on July 04, 1937

Was called to his eternal rest by our Heavenly Father on April 28, 2010

*His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:*WIFE: **EUGENIA CABRERA CEPEDA**

CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN:

- **Delia Anne Cabrera Cepeda** (*Cezanne Matise, Christy Lynn, Chloe Jane, Colin John, David Jonathan*)
- **Leonora Lee Cepeda & Felimon K. Camacho** (*Wendy Jeanine, Kaitleen Kelsey, Leonard Joseph*)
- **Elsie Lynne C. & Press Camacho** (*Vernon John, Alexis Jude, Bryanna Lynn, Pressel Jean*)
- **Jordonna Lena Cabrera Cepeda** (*Vida-Neko' Kruzanna*)
- **Raymond Randy Cabrera Cepeda & Zania Fleming** (*Sinahi Ray, Krissy Rease, Kahi*)

BROTHERS, SISTERS & SPOUSES:

Victoria Cepeda & Francisco Quitano
Mae Q. & Glenn Dikito and Family
William C. & Candy Quitano and Family
Pilar Q. & Joseph c. Lizama and Family
Manuel C. & Orpha C. Quitano and Family

Estella Sablan Cepeda
Brenda Cepeda and Family

Victorino S. & Marcelina P. Cepeda
Melvin P. & Eleanor A. Cepeda and Family
Francisco P. Cepeda

Dolores A. & Dave Eagle
Melissa A. Manibusan and Family
Mark A. Manibusan and Family

BROTHERS/SISTERS-IN-LAWS:

Margarita C. & Pedro W. Torres
Margaret Bertha C. Torres & Mike Sablan and family
Jaquelin T. & Joseph D. Camacho and family
Peter W. II & Trina Dlg. Torres and family
Jesse C. & Gina T. Torres and family
Risha C. Torres & Joseph Lifofoi II and family

Victorina C. Butteris & +Glenn D. Butteris
Darrin C. Butteris & Doris DLGuerrero and family

Remedios C. & Vicente P. Diaz
Vicente P. Diaz Jr.
Adrian C. Diaz
Thomas C. Diaz & Chelsey
Kekoa C. Diaz

Diana C. & Francisco C. Torres
Pamela C. Torres and family
Jeffrey C. Torres and family
Kolani C. Torres and family
Francisco W. Torres & Germaine Cabrera

Dolores C. & Juan S. Camacho
Leila C. & Dante N. Yumul and family
Peter C. Camacho & Eva Calvo and family
Nasia C. Camacho & Craig S. Sanchez and family
Juan S. Camacho, Jr.

†Juan Celis Cabrera
Rodney C. Cabrera & Naomi Nishimura and family
Rowena C. Cabrera and family
Laura Jean C. Cabrera and family
Juan C. Cabrera Jr. & Jadine Ada

Bernadita C. & Mark I. Palacios
Velma C. Palacios & Joe Santos and family
Marvin C. Palacios and family
Franklin C. Palacios
Mark C. Palacios

Pedro C. & Emerina S. Cabrera
Peoni C. Cabrera and family
Penny Lee C. Cabrera

SPECIAL FRIENDS :

Hiroko & Hirokoni Suzuki
 Michiko Ariga
 Jae Won & Chang Sook Kim

In his new life, he now joins his:

SON	: †Leonard John Cabrera Cepeda
PARENTS	: †Juan Blas Cepeda & †Soledad Sablan Cepeda-Aguon
STEPFATHER	: †Jose Cruz Aguon
BROTHER	: †Fernando Sablan Cepeda
SISTERS	: †Marina Cepeda ‡Fermina Cepeda
NIECE	: †Serafina C. Diaz
SON IN LAW	: †Vincent Fejeran
PARENTS IN LAW	: †Leonardo Camacho & †Ignacia Celis Cabrera
BROTHERS IN LAW	: †Glenn D. Butteris ‡Juan Celis Cabrera

Daily Mass of intention is being offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am. Holy Rosary is being prayed nightly at 7:00 p.m. at their residence at As Teo.

Schedule for the Mass of Christian Burial and the interment services will be announced at a later date.

Please join us in prayers. Thank You.

Eugenia Cabrera Cepeda
Children & Families

'Nightmare' and 'Iron Man' lead US, overseas bills

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fred Krueger is raking in cash at the box office again, while Robert Downey Jr.'s "Iron Man 2" got off to a big start overseas.

A remake of the slasher flick "A Nightmare on Elm Street" led the weekend with a \$32.2 million debut domestically, according to studio estimates Sunday. Released by the Warner Bros. banner New Line, the movie features Jackie Earle Haley as Krueger, a psycho killer who stalks and slays victims in their dreams.

Paramount's "Iron Man 2" got an international head start on its domestic debut this Friday, pulling in \$100.2 million in 53 foreign markets. While Hollywood blockbusters typi-

cally open around the same date in most countries, some get an overseas jump of a week or more on their U.S. debuts.

"Iron Man 2" brought in \$12.2 million in Great Britain, \$10.8

million in South Korea, \$8.8 million in Australia and \$8.2 million in France. According to Paramount, the sequel had bigger openings than 2008's "Iron Man" in every market.

"Iron Man 2" continues the

story of Downey's billionaire superhero, a genius who builds himself a metal suit loaded with gadgets. Mickey Rourke co-stars as a new enemy with his own high-tech arsenal.

Fright films typically drop steeply in their second weekends, since hardcore horror fans rush out to see them in the first few days. But "A Nightmare on Elm Street" already is headed toward a solid profit after an opening weekend that roughly matched its modest production budget of just over \$30 million.

Given the history of slasher sagas—the original 1984 "A Nightmare on Elm Street" was followed by seven sequels—the franchise likely has a long life ahead of it.

"It's certainly something we

would entertain, the same with 'Friday the 13th,'" another New Line horror series that was revived last year and has a sequel in the works, said Dan Fellman, head of distribution at Warner Bros.

"A Nightmare on Elm Street" was unable to match the fresh start of "Friday the 13th," whose remake had a \$40 million opening weekend in February 2009.

Mickey Rourke wrestled with Russian role for 'Iron Man 2'

By COLIN COVERT
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Mickey Rourke was jailed on a recent trip to Russia. That wouldn't be news, except this time the hell-raising actor was doing research. His voluntary three-hour hookup in Moscow's notorious Butyrka Prison was part of his preparation to play Ivan Vanko, an inventor-turned-convict-turned-bionic-bad-guy, in "Iron Man 2."

Rourke, who won a Best Actor Golden Globe with his comeback "The Wrestler," is making the most of his career resurrection. Following years of erratic behavior and unemployment, he's now working steadily and seriously on roles large and small. He did a two-day cameo in the action saga "The Expendables" for his friend Sylvester Stallone, who cast him in "Get Carter" when Rourke was "dead broke." He's preparing to remake the English crime drama/romance "Mona Lisa" with grunge filmmaker Larry Clark, and has stirred up a hornet's nest of controversy by agreeing to play Mongolian warlord Genghis Khan in a film written and directed by John ("Conan the Barbarian") Milius.

None of those roles is as buzzed-about as Iron Man's implacable Russian nemesis, a role Rourke helped create in collaboration with director Jon Favreau and screenwriter Justin Theroux. "I wanted to redeem him as much as we possibly could without shaking up the Marvel people," Rourke said in a phone interview.

"I didn't want to do a one-dimensional bad guy like you'd see in a comic book," Rourke said. "Get some schmuck to do that. Hollywood always does that, especially when it's a Russian bad guy. I wanted to add layers to it, represent where he's coming from, and have a sense of humor."

"I want to challenge myself and challenge the audience to say, 'I see something redeemable in him.' That makes it more interesting and not so silly."

That meant taking on a considerable amount of homework. Rourke insisted that the character needed to speak Russian, though he found that "very difficult for an English speaker.

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, DreamWorks Animation's hit "How to Train Your Dragon," slipped to second place with \$10.8 million, raising its total to \$192.4 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

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AP
In this April 26, 2010 photo, actor Mickey Rourke from the upcoming film "Iron Man 2" poses for a portrait with his new puppy named Mush in Los Angeles.

They use the mouth and tongue and palate very differently. It's a lot harder than French or Spanish." It took two months of coaching to master the Russian dialog and accent.

His tour of the Moscow prison and his time inside provided insights into the difference between convict life there and in the United States, he said. He also interviewed Russian prisoners.

"I talked to one guy who just got out after 13 years. There's a whole subculture of what the tattoos represent over there. They're secretive; different symbols mean different things. You might have a tattoo of a cat, eyeballs on a certain place on your body, Soviet Union tattoos intertwined with Russian organized-crime tattoos. It tells what prisons he's been in, what time he's done, his status inside the prison," Rourke said.

He incorporated his research into Vanko, who fights bare-chested, flaunting his extensive criminal past. Rourke created every aspect of the character's look except the armor.

The 57-year-old actor looks almost as buff in his new role as he did in "The Wrestler," thanks to a grueling gym regimen. It took all his strength and stamina to carry around the villain's 42-pound metal exoskeleton and

flail his electrified bullwhips.

"It was very cumbersome. I walked 10 feet and tried to do the bullwhips, and it was exhausting." Rourke's trainer put him in weighted suits for 10 weeks of intense training. "We'd go uphill on a treadmill for 40 minutes. Then we'd do boxing, moving forward, backward, sideways for two minutes with the whips. We'd do four rounds," whips flailing. "I hit myself in the forehead a couple times. It wasn't bad. It was easier than math."

The hardest part of the role was pretending to me tech-savvy, Rourke said. "The guy's supposed to be great on the computer. I don't even know how to turn one on. They have a scene where I'm supposed to be using the computer, typing really quickly. I wouldn't know a computer if it hit me in the head."

Rourke's next movie, the Tony Scott mob thriller "Potsdamer Platz," opens with him in his grave, explaining in flashback how things spun out of control during a routine hit. The back-from-the-dead scenario has an eerie resonance with the actor's own career, he noted.

"I was out of this business for about 14 years for a lot of crazy reasons. I'm really enjoying it the second time around."

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NOW SHOWING



Furry Vengeance

Friday	4:30	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:25
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:25	

Brendan Fraser, Brooke Shields
Comedy, Children's/Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

A real estate mogul (Brendan Fraser) goes head-to-head with a group of furry critters looking to protect their forest from development in this Summit Entertainment/Participant Media co-production. The family-oriented comedy was written by Mr. Woodcock's Michael Carnes and Josh Gilbert.



A Nightmare on Elm Street

Friday	4:10	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:30
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:30	

Jackie Earle Haley, Kyle Gallner
Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

Platinum Dunes revives the Nightmare on Elm Street franchise with this reworking of slasher film legend Freddy Krueger, a deceased child killer who torments the dreams of the teenagers of Springwood, OH. Jackie Earle Haley picks up the killer's mantle from series veteran Robert Englund with the reboot from music-video director Samuel Bayer.



The Back-up Plan

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lopez, Alex O'Loughlin
Romance, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A single woman opts for artificial insemination after dating for years and failing to find the right guy, only to see the man of her dreams breeze into her life just as she learns she's pregnant. Zoe (Jennifer Lopez) is well aware that her biological clock is ticking, but she just can't find the type of guy she'd want to settle down and start a family with. Eventually, she makes the decision to become a single mother. The very same day that Zoe is artificially inseminated, however, she meets Stan (Alex O'Loughlin), a single charmer whom she thinks would make a great father.



The Losers

Friday	4:05	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:05	7:10
Sunday	1:30	4:05	7:10
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:10	

Zoe Saldana, Chris Evans
Action • Rated PG 13



The Bounty Hunter

Friday	4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Jennifer Aniston, Gerald Butler
Comedy • Rated PG 13



The Last Song

Friday	4:20	7:05	9:40
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:05	

Miley Cyrus, Liam Hemsworth
Drama • Rated PG



Clash Of The Titans

Friday	4:25	7:20	9:45
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:20
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:20	

Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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Ex-Jackson lawyer dies in apparent suicide

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A successful entertainment attorney who was once a lawyer for Michael Jackson and Andrea Bocelli was found dead in an apparent suicide Friday, coroners officials said.

Peter Lopez, 60, died of a gunshot wound at his home in California, coroner's office operations chief Craig Harvey said.

Lopez worked with singers, record producers and songwriters and was a co-producer of the Jennifer Lopez film "Selena," a biopic about the beloved Tejano singer who was killed by the

president of her fan club.

A neighbor reported hearing a shot and someone at the home found Lopez's body, coroners officials said.

Lopez' wife, actress Catherine Bach, and her two daughters suffered a "tragic personal loss," said her publicist, Steve Rohr.

Bach played Daisy Duke in the 1980s TV series "The Dukes of Hazzard."

Lopez was Michael Jackson's music attorney for several years, according to Alfred Newman, a spokesman for the firm Lopez helped found, Kleinberg Lopez

Lange Cuddy & Klein. He also represented Bocelli, The Eagles and Michael Buble.

"We are deeply shocked and saddened by the unexpected loss of our friend and partner," the firm said in a statement.

Raymone Bain, Michael Jackson's former general manager, said she hired Peter Lopez in 2006 as Jackson's entertainment attorney when she was reorganizing the singer's business affairs.

"I'd known Peter for 20 years," she said. When she was searching for a new legal team she said another of her clients,

R&B singer Babyface, recommended Lopez.

"I can't think of a nicer individual," she said. "He was a good guy. I'm just so shocked."

She said Lopez traveled with her and Jackson to London for the World Music Awards and spoke to the singer quite often.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Lopez to the California State Athletic Commission, which regulates boxing, and as the director of the California Exposition and State Fair Board.

Lopez attended UCLA Law School.

Next Batman film to swoop into theaters in 2012

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A sequel to "The Dark Knight" will swoop into theaters in 2012.

Warner Bros. scheduled July 20, 2012, as the release date for the next installment of the Batman film franchise.

Director Christopher Nolan brought the Caped Crusader back to the big screen in 2005's "Batman Begins" and 2008's "The Dark Knight," which earned over \$1 billion worldwide and garnered Heath Ledger a posthumous Oscar for his role as The Joker.

No other details about the film were announced Friday.

In this file image released by Warner Bros., Christian Bale stars as Bruce Wayne in "The Dark Knight." Warner Bros. have announced July 20, 2012, as the release date for the next Batman film.



AP

Drama Critics name 'Orphans Home Cycle' best play

NEW YORK (AP)—Horton Foote's "The Orphans' Home Cycle" has been named best play of the season by the New York Drama Critics' Circle.

Foote's play is a nine-hour examination of one man's life

in small-town Texas during the first decades of the 20th century.

The Circle also voted Friday not to give awards for best musical or best foreign play.

Special citations were

awarded to the Lincoln Center Festival, actress Viola Davis - currently on Broadway in "Fences" - and playwright Annie Baker, author of two plays seen off-Broadway this season, "Circle Mirror Trans-

formation" and "The Aliens."

Founded in 1935, the Circle is composed of drama critics from daily newspapers, magazines, wire services and websites based in the New York metropolitan area.

Rosalynn Carter pens new book on mental health

ATLANTA (AP)—Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter says that while there have been dramatic advances to treat people suffering from mental illness, the stigma still lingers.

The 82-year-old details her efforts to bring mental health issues to the forefront in a new book titled, "Within Our Reach: Ending the Mental Health Crisis."

Carter said there should be no more shame or stigma attached to mental illness than any other illness.

She said popular television crime dramas still portray the mentally ill as violent when they are far more likely instead to be crime victims.

Carter says the treatment of Hurricane Katrina victims and veterans coming back from Afghanistan and Iraq show there's still much that is misunderstood about mental illness.

Megan Mullally lands on Starz to 'Party Down'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Megan Mullally is no party animal. And yet the "Will & Grace" Emmy winner has found a new home on the sitcom "Party Down," which just began its second season on the Starz cable network. The series follows struggling Hollywood writers and actors supporting themselves as caterers.

"My character, Lydia, comes in as a breath of fresh air," said Mullally in a recent interview from New York City. "She bursts onto the scene from the Midwest with her 13-year-old daughter Escapade, who is going to be the next Hannah Montana."

Mullally, 51, had her share of odd jobs before breakout Broadway roles in the mid-'90s, and then playing boozy Karen Walker on "Will & Grace" from 1998 to 2006.

"One time I got hired because I wore a size-6 shoe," the L.A. native recalled. "So I got hired to go do the shoe show, which was down at the Convention Center. And what it consisted of



AP

In this image released by Starz, actress Megan Mullally is shown in character in the Starz original series, "Party Down."

was me ... (Mullally hesitates) ... in a hotel room ... trying on shoes for ... a bunch of Japanese guys," she added, laughing.

The odd, if more lucrative, jobs continue for Mullally, who can be

A rival's complaint triggers firing on worker's first day

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My wife was hired for an administrative position. On her first day of work, they called her into the human resources director's office and told her she was being "let go" because of her website. The site has photos of her when she worked as a model for a large department store. They are in no way provocative or overly revealing. Photos of our children are also on the site.



Dear Abby

The HR director told her that one of the other (internal) applicants had Googled her and had seen the site. An image so upset the other applicant that she made a formal complaint, which caused my wife's dismissal!

We consulted a lawyer and contacted the local Equal Employment Opportunity Commission only to be told that North Carolina is an "at will" employment state and that the employer did nothing wrong. We feel their actions were wrong. Is there anything that can be done?

YANKEE IN CONFEDERATE COUNTRY

DEAR YANKEE: I'm sorry, but the answer is no. In most states there is a presumption of "at will" employment unless you have a written contract to the contrary. However, the employer cannot terminate an employee for an illegal reason—such as age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or a disability. It does not appear from your letter that your wife was terminated for an illegal reason, but what happened stinks anyway.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother got drunk at a family function and started a fight with me. I ended up leaving before it could escalate, but I feel I ruined the host's day. Would it be appropriate to send an "I'm sorry" note, and how would I word it?

MAKING AMENDS IN TENNESSEE

DEAR MAKING AMENDS: The person making the amends should be the person who created the scene—your mother. If you feel something needs to be said by you, and apparently you do, then write your host and say, "I feel terrible about what happened at your party and would like to apologize for my mother's behavior. I left before she could create a scene, but I'm afraid it cast a shadow on your day, and for that I would like to apologize." Sign it with love.

P.S. You'll lead a happier life if you stop feeling that you have to apologize for your mother's behavior. You are responsible only for your own.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been lucky enough to travel all over the world during our long marriage. Over the years, we collected lovely items from every location.

Now that we are older, we have decided to move into a smaller home, and would like to share these lovely souvenirs with our friends. Although I think "Ellen" would love to have one of my silk scarves, and "Peter" would appreciate a pair of my husband's marble bookends, or "Annemarie" would cherish my necklace from India, etc., I'm unsure that my choices would be their choices.

Would it be proper for us to ask our friends to choose among our treasure rather than our making the choice for them?

WORLD TRAVELER IN MIAMI BEACH

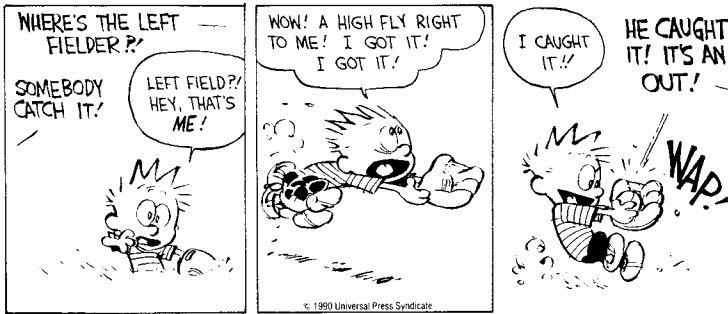
DEAR WORLD TRAVELER: I commend you for your generosity; however, you might run into trouble if several of your friends choose the same item. Were I in your shoes, I would make the selection for each of them. (Include a note with the gift—i.e., "Ellen, this scarf matches your eyes," "Annemarie, I know you love ethnic jewelry," etc.)

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



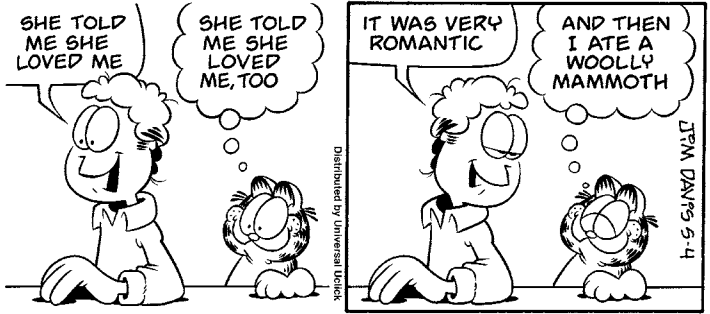
Garfield® By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



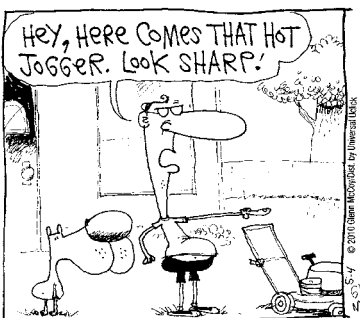
Adam@home



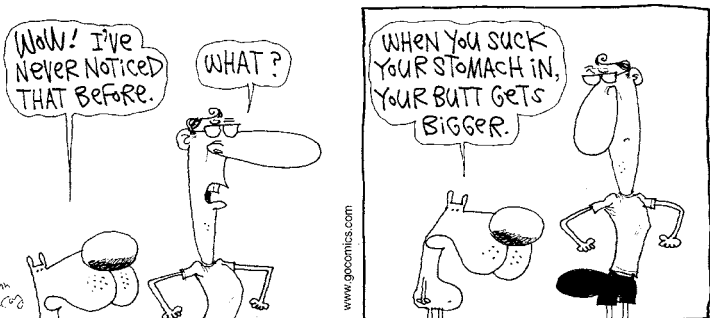
By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 "Non-sense!" 37 Diving bird 38 Baby food 39 Oodles 40 Patsy 41 Yarn 42 Facility 43 Chills and fever 44 Meadow 45 Still 46 Jewels 47 Grain 48 Bristle 49 Untouchable 50 Eliot 51 Haven 52 Melody 53 Unhealthy 54 Pollster's find 55 Corridor 56 Lemieux milieu 57 Old English double-U 58 Time of your life? 59 Roadside emergency phone

DOWN 1 Con game 2 Frat party garment 3 "Ameri-can —" 4 Loose overcoat 5 Release a dead-bolt 6 Member-ship 7 Punctur-ing tool 8 Horri-fy 9 Carrots' partners 10 Ganges wrap 11 Antlered critters 12 Lounge about 13 Disen-cumber 14 Actor McKellen 15 First X or O? 16 Men-only 17 Zoo structure 18 Astrin-gent 19 Took to the skies 20 Donated 21 Works with 22 Longings 23 Carte lead-in

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-4

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Lance Bass, 31; Will Arnett, 40; Ana Gasteyer, 43; Randy Travis, 51

Happy Birthday: Don't give in until you get what you want and you will have no regrets. Don't let uncertainty be your guide. Take hold of every opportunity in the upcoming year and don't let anger or disappointment slow you down. Love and romance will benefit you personally and domestically. Your numbers are 4, 12, 25, 28, 30, 44, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't take anything or anyone for granted. Business or personal problems will surface if you have neglected what your partner is trying to do. By being a little more accommodating, you can secure your financial position. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do whatever it takes to ensure that a business venture has the potential to make financial gains. A partnership will put you in a good position and give you greater momentum to achieve the success you are looking for. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Dreaming can be fun but it's what you do to make things happen that will bring you satisfaction. Take the initiative to get your plans off the ground. Dealing with rules and regulations first will save you time and money later. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may need a little coaxing in the beginning but, once you start to move in a new direction, you will realize how much you can accomplish. Being reluctant to try something new will

be your downfall and can lead to problems with someone you love. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There is a lot to be thankful for. Your ability to bring people together and to make deals happen will put you in a good position. An interesting encounter with someone you love will lead to a better relationship. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't hang around waiting to see what everyone else is going to do. An opportunity won't be offered indefinitely. Get moving—it's time to make plans for the future. Don't let a lack of confidence hold you back. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You must be competitive if you want to come out on top. Expect to face some negative responses and opposition. Use your intuition and will power to take you down a path that encourages you to follow your dreams. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stay on top of matters if you want to get ahead. Focus on what everyone around you is doing and how you can make improvements of your own that will lead to your success. A couple of last-minute changes will catch the competition off guard. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You need to chase an adventure or implement some excitement into your life. Don't be daunted by the changes from the people around you. It may be time for you to move on and pursue a different dream. Romance is in the stars. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Lead the way.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Waiting for someone to do something is a waste of time. No is not an acceptable answer and can't is not in your vocabulary. Professional changes may be necessary and, if you act now, you will find a way to earn more money. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't say anything you don't want repeated. Your contributions will be examined and can cost you your reputation if you don't live up to your promises. Allow the changes that are upon you to take place. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make whatever you do or offer count. You don't have to speed through things in order to make an impact. You will be entrusted with someone's concerns because of your compassionate nature. ****

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed, cutting edge and in control. You are stubborn, bold and brave when called upon to protect those you love.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			9	3		7	5			
	2				8			1		
						9				
7		1		5					9	
	9							7		
5				7		8			3	
				6						
	8			3				6		
		2	7		5	4				

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

5	8	2	6	1	9	4	3	7
1	9	3	4	2	7	6	8	5
4	7	6	3	8	5	1	2	9
6	3	9	8	5	4	7	1	2
8	5	1	7	6	2	9	4	3
7	2	4	1	9	3	5	6	8
2	1	5	9	4	8	3	7	6
3	6	8	5	7	1	2	9	4
9	4	7	2	3	6	8	5	1

Difficulty Level ★ 5/03

WONDERWORD® By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ISADORA DUNCAN Solution: 8 letters

H	H	D	D	A	N	C	E	R	B	A	L	L	E	T
S	P	C	M	L	I	F	V	G	A	R	T	S	G	R
E	E	M	A	S	R	I	M	L	A	C	I	D	A	R
V	R	P	U	E	S	O	Y	B	I	R	Y	L	T	E
R	F	M	H	I	T	D	E	R	A	H	U	S	S	C
A	O	N	O	I	R	R	O	P	P	P	E	O	E	I
C	R	N	O	U	L	T	A	A	O	Z	E	M	C	N
S	M	N	T	I	S	O	R	P	N	S	R	O	N	T
E	A	S	N	I	S	G	S	A	I	L	E	V	A	H
M	N	D	H	M	O	S	C	O	W	O	N	E	M	E
U	C	G	R	E	C	I	A	N	P	O	N	M	O	A
T	E	I	R	A	R	H	O	P	D	H	M	E	R	T
S	O	O	N	E	M	C	A	N	A	C	Y	N	E	E
O	H	U	M	E	I	A	O	R	T	S	I	T	C	R
C	L	A	R	U	T	L	U	C	M	O	D	E	R	N

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Saipan Tribune



Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Board of Directors

Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities

The Board of Directors of the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) wishes to announce a board vacancy.

The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Raising funds and recruiting community partners;
- Providing input from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the NMI Council for the Humanities.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Tracy M. Guerrero, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950. They may also be delivered to the NMI Council for the Humanities office located in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 31, 2010. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

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Kobe rallies Lakers past Jazz in 2nd-round opener



LOS ANGELES (AP)—While the Los Angeles Lakers' reserves haplessly gave away the lead early in the fourth quarter, the Utah Jazz celebrated every basket with increasing glee, spilling off their bench in anticipation of an upset.

Even the Hollywood crowd was tense, with many fans anxiously kneading or waving the giveaway white T-shirts they apparently were too cool to wear.

"It was tough," Kobe Bryant said. "But when it got really tough for me, I just checked myself in."

A few minutes after Bryant checked in, the Jazz were checkmated in these familiar rivals' second-round opener.

Bryant scored 11 of his 31 points in the final four minutes, and the Lakers blew a fourth-quarter lead before rallying for a 104-99 victory Sunday.

Pau Gasol had 25 points and 12 rebounds while blocking five shots for the top-seeded Lakers, whose backups were nearly run off the court by the fired-up Jazz before Bryant seized control.

Last season's NBA finals MVP coolly scored seven consecutive points to erase Utah's four-point lead, followed by a dynamic slice through the lane for a layup with 22.6 seconds left. Los Angeles also did it with defense, holding the Jazz to one field goal in the final 4:10.

"We put ourselves in a little bit of a hole and let them gain all the momentum," Bryant said. "At that point, you've just got to buckle down."

Los Angeles will host Game 2 of the best-of-seven series Tuesday night. The clubs are meeting in the postseason for the third consecutive year after the Lakers ended Utah's last two seasons, including a first-round victory in 2009.

Perhaps that familiarity was one reason the Lakers again had trouble getting too excited for this one—a mood matched by the home crowd.

After the Lakers' consecutive first-round losses to Oklahoma City inspired a crackling atmosphere for their blowout victory in Game 5 last week, Staples Center reverted to its usual relaxed state. Los Angeles handed out thousands of white shirts in an apparent attempt at a whiteout crowd to go with the Lakers' Sunday white uniforms, but the majority of fans didn't bother to actually wear them.

Lakers fans get excited about titles, not T-shirts—and despite an inconsistent regular season and a playoff run that hasn't dazzled anybody to date, their team appears capable of contending for its 16th crown.

"We want to make sure we work and we put more effort into keeping leads and building on



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, center, goes up for a shot as Utah Jazz guards Wesley Matthews, left, and Deron Williams look on during the first half of Game 1 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series, Sunday, May 2, 2010, in Los Angeles.

leads and stretching the games out," Gasol said. "It's always a little bit frustrating when you lose leads and you're on the bench and you can't do anything. It happens hopefully not very often, but

we got stagnant. Guys weren't sharp out there."

Deron Williams scored 24 points for fifth-seeded Utah, which went 3:51 without a field goal after taking a 93-89 lead. Utah has lost 15 straight

to the Lakers at Staples Center, including seven playoff games.

"We got a little rattled coming down the stretch—put up some shots, they just didn't fall," said Paul Millsap, who scored eight of his 16 points early in the fourth quarter. "We're not playing to get close. We're playing to win the game."

Carlos Boozer had 18 points and 12 rebounds, while C.J. Miles added 16 points, including several difficult baskets in the fourth quarter while the Jazz surged ahead with a 12-1 run. But the Lakers had plenty of time to surge back, leaving Utah again lamenting its finishing skills.

"It is kind of repetitive," said Williams, who didn't appear slowed by his injured elbow. "We had a chance to win this game, but we couldn't make the plays down the stretch. Kobe made some unbelievable shots, and that was pretty much it."

Both teams finished their first-round series roughly 36 hours earlier, with the Lakers winning at Oklahoma City on Gasol's last-second tip-in shortly before Utah held off Denver.

Lakers center Andrew Bynum started and played 24 minutes after discovering a small tear in the meniscus of his right knee Saturday. The 7-footer wore a large brace on his knee, but said it didn't limit him much while collecting eight points and 10 rebounds.

Utah also has pronounced injury problems. With Andrei Kirilenko still sidelined with a strained left calf and center Mehmet Okur out for the postseason, the Jazz struggled to guard the Lakers inside when Los Angeles forced the ball down low.

Williams occasionally was guarded by Ron Artest, whose defense on NBA scoring champion Kevin Durant was praised in the Lakers' first-round win. Williams scored 17 points in the first half, but went just 2 for 7 after halftime.

Hawks 95, Bucks 74

At Atlanta, Jamal Crawford scored 22 points and Al Horford put up a double-double as Atlanta pulled away from Milwaukee to win their first round playoff 4-3.

After keeping their season alive with a gutsy win in Milwaukee, the Hawks made sure the Bucks were in no position to duplicate their improbable Game 5 upset.

The third-seeded Hawks advanced to face No. 2 Orlando in the Eastern Conference semifinals. The Magic, who have been resting since wrapping up a sweep of Charlotte last Monday, will host the first two games of the series beginning Tuesday.

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—LeBron James looked out at the sea of faces from his past and present. There's no knowing if they'll be in his future.

Scanning an audience which came to celebrate his second straight run-away NBA MVP award, James pointed out his former high school coaches and best friends. He praised his mom, Gloria, who somehow raised him after giving birth when she was just 16. He had a special message for his girlfriend, Savannah, and their two young sons, LeBron Jr. and Bryce.

James thanked them all, and then singled out one special group.

"I'm sorry," he said Sunday, halting the ceremony at the University of Akron's James A. Rhodes Arena. "But all my teammates, you have to come up here with me, man."

He was soon surrounded on the podium by Shaquille O'Neal, Mo Williams, Zydrunas Ilgauskas and the rest of the Cleveland Cavaliers, the team he led to 61 wins during the regular season and is determined to take all the way to an NBA championship.

Each of the Cavs hugged James before forming a half-circle around him. A few players used video cameras to record the all-for-one moment.

LeBron James wins MVP award in landslide vote

"My name may be put on the front of that trophy," James said, pointing at the Maurice Podoloff Trophy. "But these guys have a lot to do with it."

Dominating the voting just as he dominated on the floor all season, James became the 10th player in league history to win consecutive MVP awards, and he made sure to share it with the people closest to him, the ones who can never imagine him playing anywhere but Cleveland.

"Since I was a kid, I always said I'd find a way to put Akron on the map," James said. "It will always be my home and it will always be my life."

James' comments seemed slightly ominous for a player on the eve of a big decision. He has given few clues about his intentions for when free agency opens on July 1, but James almost sounded as if he was preparing to say goodbye.

"Akron, Ohio is my home," he said. "Akron, Ohio will always be remembered. Akron, Ohio is my life and I love this city."

Later, he was asked how he could leave "all this."

"This is home for me," he said. "I love this place to death. Every day I wake up I understand that I'm not just carrying myself but I'm also carrying this city to bigger and better heights. No matter where life may head me, I'm never gone from here."

James received 116 of a possible 123 first-place votes to win in a landslide over Oklahoma City forward Kevin Durant, who was picked first on four ballots. Orlando center Dwight Howard received the other three first-place votes and finished fourth.

Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant had no first-place votes and finished third.

Voting was done by a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters, and this year one ballot was cast by fans in an online vote, which went to James. Players were awarded 10 points for first, seven points for second, five for third, three for fourth and one for fifth.

James finished second on five ballots and two writers placed him third. A year ago, James received 109 of 122 first-place votes.

James finished with 1,205 points,

nearly doubling Durant (609). His margin of victory is the second largest in history, topped by only O'Neal, who won by 799 points in 2000. His first-place total was also the most since Kevin Garnett got 120 of 123 in 2004.

James joined Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Moses Malone, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan and Steve Nash on a who's-who list of back-to-back winners.

"Those are guys I looked up to growing up," he said. "To be in that same category is an unbelievable feat."

For the second straight year, James chose to have the award ceremony his hometown of Akron.

Last May, he returned to St. Vincent-St. Mary High School and received the award in the quaint gymnasium in front of family, friends and the student body. He moved it to a larger but still familiar stage, opting for Rhodes—or the JAR, as it is known—on Akron's campus, where he also played in high school.

The ceremony was open to the public, and hundreds of fans, a few of whom slept out overnight and many

wearing an assortment of No. 23 James jerseys, stood in line for hours for their chance to witness yet another coronation of Ohio's basketball king.

James considered holding the ceremony in the school's new football stadium but was afraid the weather might not cooperate.

"We didn't want it to rain on my parade," he said.

James arrived fashionably late, riding in the back of a Maybach Zeppelin. He was greeted with screams from fans lining the sidewalk as he got out of the expensive ride, looking resplendent in a gray suit, blue shirt and sunglasses that weren't needed on an overcast day.

When he finally took the stage along with Cavs coach Mike Brown, general manager Danny Ferry and owner Dan Gilbert, James was serenaded with chants of "M-V-P" by a crowd estimated at 3,000. Winning a second MVP wasn't necessarily a goal. He does have another in mind.

"The only reason I do what I do on the court is to compete for an NBA championship," he said. "I understand that until I won that I won't go down as one of the greatest players ever. That's my only goal right now. This is the closest I've been to it."

McIlroy wins 1st PGA Tour event in style

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—All the buzz about Rory McIlroy came to life Sunday at the Quail Hollow Championship with one dazzling shot after another in a record round that made him the PGA Tour's youngest winner since Tiger Woods.

Explosive as ever, the 20-year-old Northern Irishman was 5 under over the final five holes to set the course record at 10-under 62 and win by four shots over Masters champion Phil Mickelson.

McIlroy finished in style, rolling in a 40-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole and thrusting his fist into the air.

"I suppose I got into the zone," said McIlroy, who celebrates his 21st birthday on Tuesday. "I hadn't realized I was going in 9, 10 under. I just know I got my nose in front and I was just trying to stay there."

It capped a big Sunday for golf's young stars. Earlier in the day, 18-year-old Ryo Ishikawa shot a record 58 in the final round to win on the Japan Golf Tour.

McIlroy delivered an awesome display of skill that left two-time major champion Angel Cabrera in his wake and thrilled thousands of fans on a steamy day at Quail Hollow.

With a one-shot lead, McIlroy hit a 5-iron from 207 yards up the hill to 3 feet for eagle on the 15th. From a fairway bunker on the 16th, he hit 7-iron to 5 feet for another birdie. Then came the finish, when he knocked in a 40-foot putt that made fans leap from their chairs and had made McIlroy's freckled-face burst with joy.

He finished at 15-under 273 and won \$1.17 million.



Woods, who missed the cut this week, was 20 years and 10 months when he won his first PGA Tour event in Las Vegas in 1996.

Mickelson was in the hunt until he had to play a right-handed shot from the woods on the 10th hole and made bogey. When he got around to making a charge, McIlroy already was too far ahead. Mickelson closed with a 68, which he figured would be good enough to win.

The roars he heard ahead of him told him otherwise.

"I've got to congratulate Rory," Mickelson said. "He played some incredible golf. He's an amazing talent. You knew he was going to come out and win out here. He is some kind of player."

Cabrera was tied for the lead with eight holes to play until his putter failed him. The former Masters and U.S. Open champion missed five putts inside 10 feet on the back nine and shot 68.

Billy Mayfair, who had a two-shot lead going into the final round, lost the lead by hitting into the water on the par-5 seventh for a double bogey and closed with a 76.

McIlroy becomes the first player since Chris Couch at New Orleans in 2006 to make the cut on the number and win the tournament. McIlroy was two over the cut line on Friday with three holes to play until making an eagle on the seventh hole. He followed

with a 66 on Saturday to get back in the hunt, then blew everyone away with a round that ranks among the best.

The previous course record at Quail Hollow was 64.

Padraig Harrington of Ireland closed with a 68 and hung around for two hours to congratulate the kid when he finished. He was growing concerned for McIlroy, under enormous pressure since turning pro when he was 18.

He won the Dubai Desert Classic last year at 19 and nearly won the Order of Merit. McIlroy had been struggling this year with lower back problems, alarming for someone so young. He had missed two cuts going into Quail Hollow, and had not had a top 10 since the first week of February.

"At home, no matter how he does, the focus is on him," Harrington said. "When you're not winning, not delivering, the focus becomes a burden. If he can get across the line here, he can go from strength to strength. He will be a lot more comfortable with who he is, a lot more patient. The win is significant—very significant—at this time."

He crossed the line at full speed. McIlroy shot a 128 on the weekend at Quail Hollow, considered one of the toughest tracks on the PGA Tour.

Everything was going his way. "It's been a crazy ride until this point," McIlroy said. "I'm just delighted to get here. To get my first win in the U.S. is special."

Rory McIlroy of Ireland holds the championship trophy after winning the Quail Hollow Championship golf tournament at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, May 2, 2010.

AP

Wade Davis outduels Greinke, Rays beat Royals



ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Wade Davis beat Zack

Greinke in a scintillating pitchers' duel, and Evan Longoria homered in the fourth inning to lift the Tampa Bay Rays over the Kansas City Royals 1-0 on Sunday.

Davis (3-1) allowed three hits, three walks and struck out five in seven innings during his latest matchup with an American League ace. The right-hander has faced the opposing team's opening day starter—including New York Yankees lefty CC Sabathia and Boston's Josh Beckett—in all five of his starts this year.

Orioles 3, Red Sox 2, 10 innings

At Baltimore, Ty Wigginton doubled home the winning run in the 10th inning following a throwing error by Boston closer Jonathan Papelbon to give Baltimore its first three-game sweep of the Red Sox at home in 36 years.

Miguel Tejada had two hits and scored a run for the Orioles, whose three-game winning streak is a season high. The Orioles swept a four-game series from Boston at Camden Yards in 1998, but hadn't swept a three-game set against the Red Sox in Baltimore since Sept. 2-4, 1974.

Yankees 12, White Sox 3

At New York, Mark Teixeira equaled a career high with four hits and Robinson

Cano had a three-run homer, backing another dominant performance by Phil Hughes in New York's rout of Chicago.

Teixeira continued his emergence from an April slump with a two-run double and three singles that raised his average to .189. Nick Swisher added a two-run shot and Brett Gardner hit a rare homer to help the Yankees take two of three in the series.

Tigers 5, Angels 1

At Detroit, Justin Verlander took a one-hit shutout into the ninth inning and Miguel Cabrera hit an RBI single in a four-run fifth to lead Detroit past Los Angeles for its season-best fifth straight victory.

Verlander (2-2) retired 23 in a row before pinch-hitter Maicer Izturis singled with one out in the ninth and Erick Aybar followed with an RBI single to end the right-hander's day. Jose Valverde finished the four-hitter.

Twins 8, Indians 3

At Cleveland, Delmon Young and rookie Wilson Ramos each had four of Minnesota's 20 hits as Minnesota got another strong start from Francisco Liriano to beat Cleveland.

Ramos became the first Twins player with four hits in his major league debut since Kirby Puckett on May 8, 1984. Young homered and tied a career high with his four hits.

Blue Jays 9, Athletics 3

At Toronto, Shaun Marcum won for

the first time since 2008, supported by home runs from Fred Lewis, Alex Gonzalez and Aaron Hill in Toronto's victory over Oakland.

Hill went 3 for 4 with a walk and the Blue Jays pounded out 10 extra-base hits to win for the seventh time in nine games against the Athletics. Oakland has lost nine of 13 and saw its starting pitchers go 1-5 with an 11.96 ERA on a six-game road trip.

Rangers 3, Mariners 1, 11 innings

At Seattle, David Murphy hit a tying single in the ninth inning and a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the 11th to rally Texas to a victory over Seattle.

Mariners starter Doug Fister allowed only three hits in eight scoreless innings, but Murphy singled off closer David Aardsma in the ninth to drive in Elvis Andrus.

Phillies 11, Mets 5

At Philadelphia, Shane Victorino hit a grand slam off Johan Santana and Chase Utley had a two-run shot during Philadelphia's nine-run fourth inning, helping the Phillies down the New York Mets.

Santana (3-2) allowed a career-worst 10 runs in 3 2-3 innings. The two-time AL Cy Young pitching award winner allowed four homers—and one crucial bases-loaded walk.

Cardinals 6, Reds 0

At St. Louis, Chris Carpenter al-

lowed two hits over seven innings and Albert Pujols broke it open with a three-run double in the seventh to help St. Louis wrap up a 6-1 home-stand against Cincinnati.

David Freese homered for the third time in four games for St. Louis, which took two of three for its seventh series win out of eight this season. The Cardinals are an National League-best 17-8.

Padres 8, Brewers 0

At San Diego, a combined three-hitter by Jon Garland and two relievers gave San Diego its third shut out of Milwaukee in four games.

It was the first time the Padres had three shutouts in a series in their 42-year history.

Rockies 4, Giants 1

At San Francisco, Jhoulys Chacin allowed one hit in seven scoreless innings for his first major league win and Melvin Mora hit a two-run single as Colorado avoided a three-game sweep to San Francisco.

Paul Phillips drew a bases-loaded walk from Jonathan Sanchez (2-2) in the fourth to put Colorado ahead 1-0 and Ryan Spilborghs also singled home a run in the four-run fifth. The Rockies snapped their season-worst three-game losing streak.

Cubs 10, Diamondbacks 5

At Chicago, Alfonso Soriano hit a pair of two-run homers and Marlon Byrd

also hit a two-run shot as Chicago won the last three games of the series after dropping the opener.

Chicago scored 33 times against Arizona after managing only three runs in two losses to Washington. Soriano had four homers against the Diamondbacks.

Dodgers 9, Pirates 3

At Los Angeles, Andre Ethier homered twice with four RBIs, Blake DeWitt had his first four-hit game in the majors and James Loney added a pair of run-scoring hits as Los Angeles downed Pittsburgh.

Hiroki Kuroda (3-1) allowed a run over eight innings, struck out three and walked one.

Braves 7, Astros 1

At Atlanta, Jason Heyward and Melky Cabrera each drove in three runs as Atlanta completed a three-game sweep that leaves the Houston with a six-game losing streak.

The Braves outscored the Astros 21-4 in their first three-game sweep of Houston since 2003.

Marlins 9, Nationals 3

At Miami, Hanley Ramirez drove in four runs with two homers as Florida won a series for the first time in two weeks.

Ramirez hit a three-run homer in the third inning to put Florida ahead, then added a solo homer in the sixth. The 2009 NL batting champion has five home runs this season, including three in his past seven at-bats, and in the last two games he's doubled his season RBI total to 14.

Cepeda tops Mother's Day qualifier



Patrick Cepeda shot to the top of the winner's bracket in Thursday's qualifier and held on to take his place spot in USS Peleliu Club's Mother's Day 8-Ball Tournament.

His win was good for a trophy from Pacific Amusement and the 11th slot in the May 9 event. He is due to meet Ron Chisato before Sunday's tournament in a best-of-five duel for a USSP T-shirt.

Free tournaments this Sunday and Thursday will determine the final participants in the May 9 event. Larry Briones, Nolan Cultura, Marc Brian Nelvis, Rick Rengiil, Edward Suzuki, Taylor Watanabe, Mei Rengiil, Simeon

Kapileo, Chester Cuento, and Chisato won earlier qualifying tournaments.

There is no fee for the Thursday and Sunday qualifiers, which will send 13 winners and three runners-up with the most points to the Mother's Day final.

First place in the final is good for \$100, with \$50 for second. There will also be trophies courtesy of Pacific Amusement and in-house prizes.

Bernard Kileleman sent Mark Butac to the loser's bracket before falling to Murphy "Smurf" Manelo. Manelo also defeated David K. Peters, but a mistake cost him the winner's bracket final against Cepeda.

Kileleman roared back in the loser's bracket, eliminating Erina Olk-

eriil, Peters, and Manelo and taking the first game of the final from Cepeda. Cepeda steadied and won a close final game.

Kileleman's second place put him in a tie with Butac, Olkeriil, and Quinton Ngirarois for one of the three "open" slots in the Mother's Day tilt.

Sign-up begins at 7:30pm for the free Thursday and Sunday qualifying tournaments. All games are double-elimination, following Billiard Congress of America rules.

The May 9 final will begin at 7pm because of the full 16-player bracket.

For more information, contact USSP owners Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. **(USSP)**

EAGLES

From Page 28

the Knights still fighting from behind as they did since the tip-off.

Mt. Carmel posted an impressive 33 points in the last quarter, but ran out of time in the end. To the Eagles' credit, they played very smart basketball all game and out-hustled the Knights for many loose balls.

The 2010 champions also did a great job protecting the ball once they had it in their possession and their role players were well disciplined by their coach to stay in their designated positions as they properly executed their offensive scheme.

Additionally, the slow-starting Knights just missed way too many free throws and allowed too many turnovers to ever stage a legitimate come back.

Center Luther Taylor paced Grace Christian with 18 points, while fellow big man Dae Min Jeon added 14.

Sean Sablan scored a game-high 30 points, while Jared Sablan scored half that in the loss.

In the girls championship, the Lady Geckos swiftly defeated Lady Knights, 48-32, as Amber Roberts, Geline Camacho, and Annie Camacho all delivered double-digit performances for SIS.

Lady Knights star player Nicole Lebría was held to only six points in the first half and her teammates struggled all game to rally any support.

After the first quarter, the game was very tight at 10-8, Lady Geckos, but SIS continued their attack in the second quarter to extend their lead to 11. SIS did a great job sharing the ball as the two Camachos, Roberts, and Lila Mailman each delivered six first half points for the Lady Geckos.

At the half the score was 26-15, SIS, and they kept pouring it on. Lebría posted 10 more points for Mt. Carmel in the second half and tried to lead a comeback, but was simply unable to do it alone.

After three quarters, the score was 40-23 and SIS virtually traded baskets with the Lady Eagles in the last quarter to close the game with a final score of 48-32.

In all four quarters, SIS did a good job of working the ball to the open player as well as shutting down Leb-

ria on the defensive end. The Lady Geckos also effectively protected their possession of the ball and continuously played smart with the lead.

Roberts led the way for the girls champions with 15 points, while Annie Camacho and Geline Camacho scored 12 and 10 points, respectively. Lebría was the lone twin-digit scorer for Mt. Carmel with 16 markers.

Girls Championship

SIS 48 – Roberts 14, A. Camacho 12, G. Camacho 10, Mailman 6, Hudkins 2, Jewell 2, Schultz 2.

Mt. Carmel 32 – N. Lebría 16, Ada 6, K. Lebría 6, Manglona 2, Revilla 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-8, 26-15, 40-23, 48-32.

Boys Championship

GGA 73 – Taylor 18, Jeon 14, Salas 9, Hong 8, De Leon 8, Chargualaf. 7, Choi 5, Lewis 3.

Mt. Carmel 69 – S. Sablan 30, J. Sablan 15, Pangelinan 8, D. Kautz 6, T. Kautz 5, Camacho 4.

Scoring by quarters: 21-10, 32-21, 46-36, 73-69.

MBI

From Page 28

R.J. Nonato canned a baseline jumper, while Gil Gapor answered with an undergoal stab to force another deadlock before Ivan De Vero drilled a 15-foot jumper to put MBI in the lead, 80-78, with 1:03 left on the clock.

Aqua Resort missed on its next offensive play with Jaymar Torres muffing a jumper, but the Achugao-based team still had a chance to tie the match or take the lead when Pando Muleta faltered a desperation trey. However, Muleta intercepted Glenn Aquino's outlet to Johanes, who then fouled the MBI guard to stop the clock. Muleta nailed both charities, upping MBI's lead to four, 82-78, 29

seconds to go in the game.

Jessie Mina cut the lead to three after his split, 79-82, and Aqua Resort had an opportunity to inch in closer when De Vero's pitch to Art Trajano went out of the baseline. However, Mina's drive was unsuccessful and to make things worse, the ball went out to the baseline and MBI was handed possession.

A quick layup from De Vero sealed the win for MBI, as Aqua Resort failed to drill baskets in the remaining six seconds of the game.

In the first match, Bank of Guam clobbered Pepsi, 107-83.

BoG improved to an 8-5 record for the team's third win in its last four games. Pepsi dropped to 3-9 record and two more losses will eliminate the team and give Saipan Grand Ho-

tel/Docomo the last playoff slot.

First Game

Bank of Guam 107 – Quitugua 32, Peters 25, Pelisamen 20, G. Palacios 13, Mendiola 11, D. Palacios 4.

Pepsi 83 –Lauron 39, Lansang 18, Garon 16, Babauta 4, Obnimaga 4, Maglaya 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-18, 55-39, 82-57, 107-83.

Second Game

MBI 84 – De Vero 31, Muleta 16, David 13, Nonato 12, Trajano 6, Barbo 4, Viola 2.

Aqua 79 – Gapor 18, Mina 16, Lizama 15, Johanes 12, Aquino 11, Torres 5, Acosta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-26, 42-44, 61-65, 84-79.

HILARIO

From Page 28

Obata's errors to take a commanding 15-5 lead en route to a 21-10 victory.

Ta and Hilario marched into the finals after sweeping Kanata Omori and Elna Curate in the semis on Saturday, 21-10, 21-15. In the other semis pairing, Harrell and Obata needed three sets to thwart Manatsu Omori and Annette Quimbao. Harrell and Obata lost the opening set, 12-21, but still notched the last finals ticket after sweeping the last two sets, 21-17, 21-19.

Quiambao and Matansu Omori took the third place trophy after downing Kanata Omori and Curate in the consolation match, 21-10, 21-12.

The second finals game of the night also went the distance with the pair of Dick Guintu and Choi Hannah pulling off an upset against Macoi Aguda and Marlene Peraja in their men's AB title showdown.

Aguda and Peraja drew first blood, winning the opening set, 21-12, before Guintu and Hannah worked their way back into the game, prevailing in the last two sets, 21-12, 21-17, to steal the championship.

Guintu and Hannah had earlier eked

out a big semis win over Rey Bulaon and Shirley Kim, 21-16, 21-9, to gain a finals ticket. Aguda and Peraja took the other finals berth, following a 21-18, 21-18 victory over Malou Malasarte and Hapi Gabriel on Saturday. Malasarte and Gabriel settled for third place after beating Bulaon and Kim in the consolation game, 21-12, 21-17.

Meanwhile, the organizing Northern Marianas Badminton Association will resume the playoff round of the remaining doubles event and singles competitions next weekend.

Still up for grabs are the mixed doubles B and the men's (A, B, and C) and women's singles (B and C).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES	
MLB STANDINGS	
AMERICAN LEAGUE	
East Division	
	W L Pct GB
Tampa Bay	18 7 .720 —
New York	16 8 .667 1 1/2
Toronto	13 13 .500 5 1/2
Boston	11 14 .440 7
Baltimore	7 18 .280 11
Central Division	
Minnesota	16 9 .640 —
Detroit	16 10 .615 1/2
Cleveland	10 14 .417 5 1/2
Chicago	10 15 .400 6
Kansas City	10 15 .400 6
West Division	
Texas	13 12 .520 —
Oakland	13 13 .500 1/2
Los Angeles	12 14 .462 1 1/2
Seattle	11 14 .440 2
NATIONAL LEAGUE	
East Division	
Philadelphia	14 10 .583 —
New York	14 11 .560 1/2
Florida	13 12 .520 1 1/2
Washington	13 12 .520 1 1/2
Atlanta	11 14 .440 3 1/2
Central Division	
St. Louis	17 8 .680 —
Chicago	13 13 .500 4 1/2
Cincinnati	12 13 .480 5
Milwaukee	10 15 .400 7
Pittsburgh	10 15 .400 7
Houston	8 16 .333 8 1/2
West Division	
San Diego	16 9 .640 —
San Francisco	14 10 .583 1 1/2
Colorado	12 13 .480 4
Arizona	11 14 .440 5
Los Angeles	11 14 .440 5
Yesterday's Games	
Florida 9, Washington 3	
Atlanta 7, Houston 1	
St. Louis 6, Cincinnati 0	
Chicago Cubs 10, Arizona 5	
Colorado 4, San Francisco 1	
San Diego 8, Milwaukee 0	
L.A. Dodgers 9, Pittsburgh 3	
Philadelphia 11, N.Y. Mets 5	
N.Y. Yankees 12, Chicago White Sox 3	
Detroit 5, L.A. Angels 1	
Minnesota 8, Cleveland 3	
Toronto 9, Oakland 3	
Baltimore 3, Boston 2, 10 innings	
Tampa Bay 1, Kansas City 0	
Texas 3, Seattle 1, 11 innings	
QUAIL HOLLOW CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES	
CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—Final scores Sunday at the Quail Hollow Championship, a \$6.5 million PGA Tour tournament at the par-72, 7,469-yard Quail Hollow Club course:	
FINAL ROUND	
Rory McIlroy (500), \$1,170,000	72-73-66-62—273
Phil Mickelson (300), \$702,000	70-68-71-68—277
Angel Cabrera (190), \$442,000	70-67-73-68—278
Brendon de Jonge (135), \$312,000	70-73-70-66—279
Bo Van Pelt (110), \$260,000	65-76-71-68—280
Rickie Fowler (100), \$234,000	73-70-71-67—281
Mark Wilson (75), \$175,964	73-72-70-67—282
Padraig Harrington (75), \$175,964	72-72-70-68—282
Matt Jones (75), \$175,964	74-71-69-68—282
Scott McCarron (75), \$175,964	70-75-67-70—282
Jim Furyk (75), \$175,964	75-65-71-71—282
Anthony Kim (75), \$175,964	72-69-70-71—282
FexExCup Points in parentheses BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS	
LOCAL SCORES	
SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS	
MBI	11 2
World Resort	11 3
Aqua Resort	10 4
Mobil	10 4
TBK	9 4
Fiesta Resort	9 4
Bank of Guam	8 5
Pacific Islands Club	6 7
Shirley's	6 7
McGraw-Hill	5 6
AON/NJ Plus	4 6
Pepsi	3 9
Docomo/SGH	4 10
Hard Rock	1 13
Cell Pro	0 13

RANGERS

From Page 28

can touched home twice in the top of the second.

After a long top of the first, Elton Santos took the mound to start the bottom half for the Rangers. While the Rangers as a whole were swinging the bats very well, the Brewers struggled all night to move any of their base runners forward.

During his three-inning performance, Elton Santos struck out one, allowed two hits, and walked three while the Brewers left their three runners stranded.

Later, in the bottom of the second, the Brewers sent in second reliever Vince Cepeda with zero outs. Santos allowed five consecutive batters to reach base and score before Cepeda came and gave up five more runs before closing the second.

After the Brewers again failed to answer, the Rangers added one more run in the top of the third as Jesus Iguel reached

with an infield hit and came in off an error that brought the score to 20-0.

This run placed the Brewers in a most uncommon position of possibly being mercy ruled by 20 runs after just two more innings of play.

Reno Celis relieved Cepeda on the mound for the Brewers to start the bottom of the third and was able to find his team some outs and just get this bad day over with. In his three innings pitched, Celis allowed four hits and two runs with zero walks or strikeouts.

The offense never showed up for the Brewers, and to add insult to injury, Iguel of all people lined to right and scored off an error to add another run in the top of the fifth that perhaps sent a message to the Brewers that they do not plan on ever losing twice.

Iguel batted 4-for-5 with four runs and two RBIs, while Celis batted 3-for-4 with two runs and three RBIs. Taisacan, meanwhile, batted 0-for-5 with three runs and two walks with the other six Rangers batters in lineup scoring twice.

Mieko Carey Mountain Bike Fundraising Race

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Participants in the Mieko Carey Mountain Bike Fundraising Race, held on April 25, head out of Paupau beach.

Bikers climb their way out of the starting line at the parking lot at Paupau beach.



The Mieko Carey Mountain Bike Fundraising Race also drew young riders, such as these two who made several turns at the Paupau beach parking lot.



One kid rider makes his second turn at the Paupau beach parking lot.



Short course top finisher Aldrin Ana cools off after the race.



Alexander Bateman walks his bike up out of the Paupau beach parking lot.



Long course winner Butch Sublemente pedals down the Paupau beach parking lot.



Logan Mister, right, and Alexander Bateman, left, were the only two young riders who opted to race the short course for adult participants.



Short course participant Al Fernandez nears the finish line.



Russ Quinn, left, and Tyce Mister keep each other company heading to the finish line.



**Kobe rallies
Lakers past Jazz
in 2nd-round
opener**

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Saipan Tribune Sports



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2010

Eagles beat Knights to soar to championship

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Grace Christian Academy Eagles and Saipan International School Lady Geckos won the Coalition of Private School Sports Association Basketball League boys and girls championships, respectively, last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



In the boys' championship, Eagles flew ahead of the Knights early and never looked back to take the contest, 73-69.

Notably, these two teams have put on some competitive performances in the past and may be developing an interesting rivalry between one another.

Knowing beforehand that Mt. Carmel point guard Sean Sablan is the focal point of the Knights' offense, the Eagles harassed Sablan all game and forced the rest of the Knights to fill in his shoes.

Additionally, the Knights have

Lady Geckos win women's title



WALTER SUTHERLAND

The Grace Christian Academy Eagles won the Coalition of Private School Sports Association Basketball League boys' championship game, 73-69, against the Mount Carmel Knights last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

shown that they play much more comfortably when they have the lead and the Eagles did a great job of exposing this weakness to counter the Knights' strategy.

The Eagles took flight early putting up a big 21 points right out of the gate, stunning the Knights. Seven different players contributed to GCA's 21-point effort, while Sablan could only manage seven of 10 total points during Mt. Carmel's slow start.

The score was 21-10 at the beginning of the second quarter. The offense cooled down for the Eagles, but their defense still held it together as both teams added 11 points to their scores.

At halftime the score was 32-21, Eagles, and even though the Knights had found themselves in a big hole, they refused to give up.

In the third, the Knights actually outscored the Eagles and tried to carry their momentum with them into the fourth.

The Eagles were ahead 46-36 to begin the fourth quarter with

See EAGLES on Page 26

Hilario, Ta lead early winners in IT&E badminton tilt

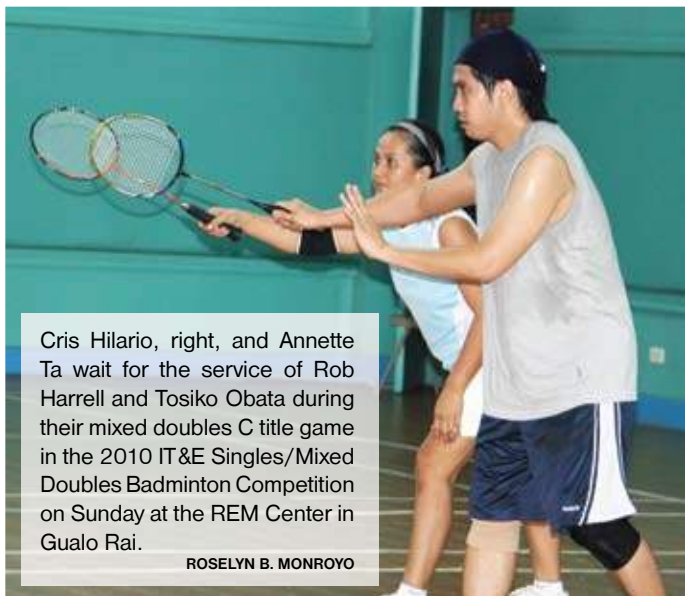
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The first batch of champions in the 2010 IT&E Singles/Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition were crowned Sunday night after posting hard-earned wins at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

First to notch a title were Chris Hilario and Annette Ta, who ruled the mixed C doubles division after outclassing Rob Harrell and Tosiko Obata in a three-set finale. Hilario and Ta took the first set easily winning by 11, 21-10.

However, the eventual champion failed to record a finals



Cris Hilario, right, and Annette Ta wait for the service of Rob Harrell and Tosiko Obata during their mixed doubles C title game in the 2010 IT&E Singles/Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition on Sunday at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

sweep when Harrell and Obata recovered in the second set with a 21-16 triumph to force a de-

ciding third set. In the last set, Ta and Hilario capitalized on

See HILARIO on Page 26

MBI clinches pennant in Shirley's caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Micro-nesian Brokers, Inc./Dial Full Force secured the pennant in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League, following a tough 84-79 win over Aqua Resort Club on Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

The victory improved MBI's record to 11-2, half a game ahead of World Resort (11-3). The win was also a good welcome for Dial-Henkel Corporation regional sales manager Chris Clarke, who was on Saipan for a business trip and watched MBI pull off a five-point win over Aqua Resort.

The defending champion has one game left in the regular season (against Fiesta Resort and Spa) and even if MBI loses the match, coach Kitz Barja's squad gets to keep the No. 1 seeding in the playoffs. An MBI loss to Fiesta will create a two-way tie for first place between the former and World Resort/Advance Xterminators. MBI will win the tie, as it defeated World Resort in their lone meeting in the regular season.

Aqua Resort with its 10-4 mark is likely to drop to third place.

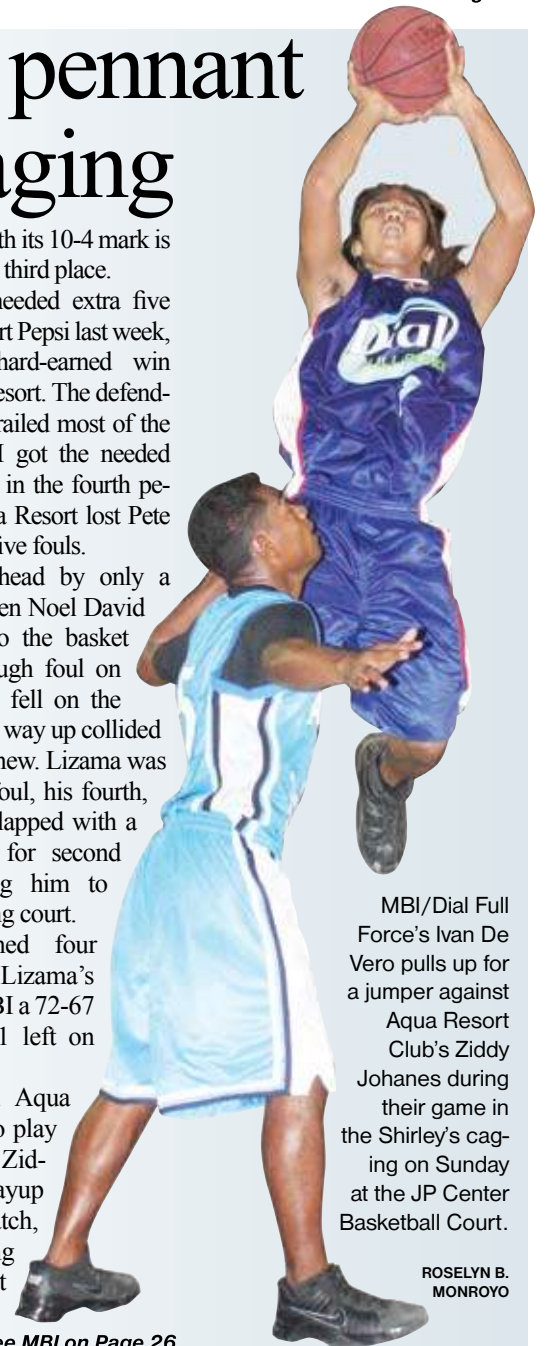
MBI, who needed extra five minutes to thwart Pepsi last week, had another hard-earned win against Aqua Resort. The defending champion trailed most of the time until MBI got the needed breaks midway in the fourth period when Aqua Resort lost Pete Lizama due to five fouls.

MBI was ahead by only a hair, 68-67, when Noel David drove strong to the basket and drew a tough foul on Lizama. David fell on the floor and on his way up collided with Lizama, anew. Lizama was called for the foul, his fourth, and was also slapped with a technical foul for second motion, forcing him to leave the playing court.

David canned four free throws off Lizama's foul to give MBI a 72-67 lead, with 5:41 left on the clock.

It was then Aqua Resort's turn to play catch up and a Ziddy Johanes' layup tied the match, 76-all, going into the last two minutes.

See MBI on Page 26



MBI/Dial Full Force's Ivan De Vero pulls up for a jumper against Aqua Resort Club's Ziddy Johanes during their game in the Shirley's caging on Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rangers skunk Brewers in five, 21-0

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Normally 2010 Saipan Major League baseball games that end due to a run rule are called off after a 10-run margin in seven innings, but the Rangers uncharacteristically closed last Friday's

Game 2 of their playoff series with a 21-0 shutout in five innings as the beer went bad for the opposing Brewers.

With the series now tied at 1-1, the final showdown between these two squads will take place at 6:30pm on Wednesday night, May 5, at Francisco "Tan Ko" Polacios Ballfield.

Starting pitcher for the home team Brewers, Jason Hayes,

almost made it through the first inning, but after the Rangers batted through their lineup, the Brewers elected to send in their first of three relievers, Ed Santos, to close the last two outs of the first.

Every member of the Rangers lineup came in to score during both of the first two innings, and Ben Wachi Taisa-

See RANGERS on Page 26